

Mary Arnold Her...

ROMAN STORIES:
OR, THE
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
SEVEN WISE MISTRESSES
OF
R O M E:

CONTAINING *Arnold (T.)*
SEVEN DAYS ENTERTAINMENT, *K*
IN MANY
PLEASANT AND WITTY TALES, OR STORIES.

WHEREIN

The Treachery of evil Counsellors is discovered,
Innocency cleared, and the Wisdom of Seven
Wise MISTRESSES displayed.

Newly Corrected, better Explain'd, and Enlarg'd.

THE FIFTIETH EDITION.

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TO THE READER.

THIS small volume of Tales and Stories is collected for thy diversion and instruction, and may serve to shew thee what subtle devices, and malicious accusations were formerly laid to attain to grandeur and gratify malicious and ambitious persons.

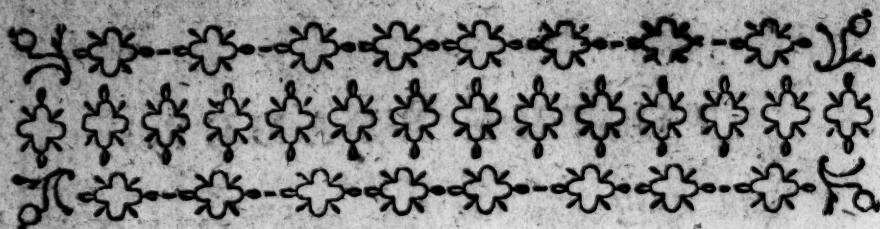
Here you may observe, that the intent of this small Book (written in an allegorical and pleasant method) is to promote Sincerity and Fidelity, and to discountenance Treachery and Falshood. If you are inclin'd to Virtue, here are precedents to direct you; if to Innocence, here are rules to instruct you; and if you would avoid Vice, here are examples which set before you the scandal and misery which attend a vicious life. In a word, you may here learn to despise Vanity, to prize Innocence, to expect Death, to escape Hell, and to obtain Heaven.

You will find the Historical Part interspersed with Curious Lessons to please the fancy, delight the mind, sharpen the Wit, and illuminate the understanding. The moral part instructs the mind in the knowledge and precepts of Virtue, as the Historical delights the fancy, and improves the judgment.

This small Book likewise, by the diverting Stories therein, encourages and allures Children and Youth to learn to read English; for which it is written in an intelligible and easy style, adapted to the meanest capacities.

To conclude, the names of the Seven Wise Mistresses are, Halicujah, Mardula, Circe, Penthesilea, Deborah, Dejanira, and Baodicea. So this Book is humbly offer'd to the perusal of the candid Reader, By

Tho. Howard.



ROMAN STORIES:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

OF THE

SEVEN WISE MISTRESSES

Of R O M E.

S T O R Y I.

IN the great and flourishing city of Rome, there reigned a virtuous and renowned Empress named Lucretia, the sole heiress and possessor of that imperial Crown and dignity, who with the advice of her council, married a rich and glorious Prince, powerful, valiant, and beloved of all his subjects; by whom she conceived, and bare a daughter named SARBRINA.

This young princess, as she advanced in years, grew in beauty, virtue, and all the qualities of mind and body, which are necessary to make an accomplished lady, insomuch that she was the delight of all that saw her, and especially of her parents, who esteemed her as the chief jewel of their crown.

It happened when Sabrina was about six years of age, that a province in her father's dominions rebelled against their sovereign; to suppress which the king assembled with all speed a mighty army, and marched towards them: but the weather proving unseasonable, he happen'd to catch cold, which threw him into such a violent fever, that his recovery was despaired of. The king being concerned for his queen, and for the education and happiness of his young daughter, whose tender years render'd her incapable to take care of herself thought fit, finding himself grow worse and worse, to write the following letter to the empress.

Dear Lady,

“ **M**Y expedition has proved very unfortunate
 “ to me; for by the way I am taken sick
 “ of a violent Fever. Therefore pray make haste
 “ unto me, that we may consult how to provide for
 “ the education of our daughter Sabrina, and the
 “ state and settlement of our dominions; For I
 “ am without hopes of recovery, and if you make
 “ not great haste, you will hardly see me alive.”

The messenger posted away to the empress, and finding her walking in the Garden, expecting every hour news from her beloved husband, he with profound Reverence delivered her the letter. The empress immediately broke it open, and reading what condition her lord was in, fell into a swoon, to the astonishment of all her ladies; but so soon as she had recovered her senses, she caused her chariot and horses to be made ready, and hasted both night and day till she came to her lord and king. She found him, to her grief, almost dead,

and gently pressing herself upon his breast, she kissed his icy lips, being unable to speak for tears and sorrow. The king perceiving her, raised himself in his bed, and with a flood of tears spake to this effect:

O my dear lady, it rejoices me that you are come, that I may impart my troubled mind to you since I am not likely to recover. The natural affection I bear to you, and our daughter Sabrina, makes me to conjure you in the first place, to cause her to be educated and trained up in all manner of virtuous learning, whereby she may attain to all the accomplishments befitting a princess so nobly descended. And when she is sufficiently instructed in all that is proper for her to learn as a private lady, I desire that in the next place, you will take her home to your imperial palace, and admit her into your most honourable council, that she may perfect herself in the knowledge of affairs of state, and how for to govern with justice, and your vast dominions; which, in the third place, I implore you for to leave none but her, who after your decease, has the best right to them. As for you, my dear lady, considering you are advanced in years, it is not likely, that you will, by a second marriage, bury my memory in oblivion; and therefore I advise you to chuse from among the wisest and most grave of your counsellors, a senator who is able to advise you in the most important affairs of the empire, and to be a guardian to your young daughter Sabrina, till she come to maturity.

The sorrowful empress answered, My dear lord, all these things shall be performed according to your will and request. Then embracing each other,

the king turned himself upon the pillow and gave up the ghost, and afterwards, was conveyed into his own country ; where his funeral was solemnized with the utmost magnificence ; after which, the empress prosecuting the war against the rebels soon reduced them to obedience ; and having disbanded her forces, returned in peace to Rome.

S T O R Y II.

How the empress, by the advice of her council, resigned Sabrina to take care of Seven Wise Mistresses.

S OON after the funeral obsequies, the empress walking solitary in the garden, and thinking of the last words of her late royal husband, wherein he recommended to her so earnestly the interests of the empire, and more especially the education of the young princess Sabrina, who was the chief object of his affections, said to herself, now my dear lord and husband is dead, there is but one in the world whom I take pleasure in, and that is my only daughter Sabrina, the very flower and glory of virgins, who is heir apparent of all my dominions ; therefore it is proper while she is young and apt to receive instruction, to inform her understanding, that she may be able, after my decease to manage the great affairs of the empire with prudence and justice : To effect which, as my deceased lord recommended, I cannot do better than to commit her to the care of some virtuous persons, who are well skilled in the sciences.

Accordingly the empress assembled all the lords of her council, and demanded their advice concerning her young daughter Sabrina : and some of them

proposed to build a tower in the royal garden for the young lady, with five devout matrons to attend her, and two philosophers to instruct her in natural philosophy, and other arts and sciences; But some other lords of the council differ'd in opinion, and said to the empress, Most excellent lady it is not expedient that she should be in such a tower, nor such a way instructed, for three reasons.

First, If she be in such a tower, your nobles and ladies that frequent your palace, by too often visiting her, will make her mind more the pleasures of the court than her learning.

Secondly, Men tutors are not suitable for a princess of such incomparable beauty; for thro' too much familiarity, and the weakness of her tender years, great injuries may ensue, and her princely virtue be stained.

Thirdly, Her attendants being but five weak ladies, might for hopes of future advancement, to please the young princess, give her too much liberty in yielding to her fancies, and so destroy the best time of her study.

But gracious lady, there is living not far from this city, Seven Wise Mistresses, most expert in wisdom and resolving all manner of questions, and who, for their great skill and learning, excel all women in the world, to whose care we humbly advise your Majesty to commit your princely daughter. The empress approving of this advice, sent a letter to command the Seven Wise Mistresses to appear before her: They having received, and read the letter, accordingly attended upon the empress: who to make trial of their knowledge, demanded if they knew the reason why she sent for them.

They answered, most gracious sovereign, we do; for it has been revealed to us in a dream, which was this; We saw a high and mighty tree, whose branches covered all the realm, under whose leaves the beasts of the earth sheltered without number; and in an instant, we saw it fall and dissolve, so that nothing but the roots remained discernable, out of which proceeded a fair young branch.

The Empress said, Unfold the meaning thereof.

They reply'd, The tree which we saw was our late sovereign lord the king; the spreading branches signify his power extending over all his empire, out of whose roots sprung a young scion, that is your only daughter, who will rule the empire with equity and honour, whose learning and education you will commit to our charge.

You have said right, answered the Empress; I will commit my daughter to you, to be instructed in all sorts of literature, that she may be accomplished, and fit to govern the Roman Empire after my decease; for which you shall receive encouragement from the royal bounty.

The Wise Mistresses gladly undertook the charge, and were transported with joy at the generous condescension of the Empress; so returning her thanks, they received the young princess Sabrina, and conducted her to their noble palace. As they went Boadicea said to her companions, If we now should teach the Princess publicly, and grant her recourse to the pleasant gardens, it would prove a hindrance to her study; besides, the Tuscan knights hearing of so great a beauty, might (when we little think of it) steal her away.

Then answered Mardula, Let us place her in the Brazen Tower, and there we will paint upon all the instruments of music the Seven Liberal Sciences, so that whenever she is inclined to music, she may at the same time be put in mind of virtue and learning.

This proposal being adhered to, the Mistresses used their best skill and diligence in attending the young lady for the space of seven years; which being expired, they appointed a day to prove her experience in what she had learnt; which being come, they put the three following questions to her,

First, What is the most acceptable thing to God? She answered, to obey willingly all his most holy commands. *2dly*. What is it gives the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to the soul of man? She said, the answer of a good conscience. *3dly*. What knowledge made women wisest? She reply'd, the knowledge of good from evil.

The Wise Mistresses hearing these acute answers, were of opinion, that the Princess would, for wisdom, be famous, and excel, her progenitors.

S T O R Y III.

How the empress, by the advice of her lords, chose Radamentus her assistant in the government.

IT was about the time the princess of the land, and all the nobility assembled themselves together before the empress in council for the electing a Grand Consul, expert in the laws and customs of the empire, to assist the empress in all temporal affairs, according to the will of her late husband the king; and they chose one Radamentus, a wise and crafty politician, and one whom the empress

reposed great confidence in, so that whatever he contrived or proposed, she was ready to sign. This Radamentus being thus placed at the head of the affairs of the empire, he grew haughty and ambitious of more honour; and thinking to himself that the empress was weak and sickly, and that it was probable she could not live long, nothing less could satisfy his ambition, than the hopes of making himself emperor after her decease: And knowing the empress had a young daughter, brought up under the tuition of seven wise ladies, and was the apparent heir of the crown, he was afraid (when she came to maturity) that she would marry, and so frustrate his hopes, and turn his ambition to his own confusion; therefore from that time he bent his study to destroy her.

Now there was a law, that whosoever was found in fornication or adultery, should die without mercy. Upon a day, as the empress and Radamentus were both walking in the garden, Radamentus seemed to be very melancholy, the which the empress observing, demanded the cause of it; he answered, 'Now the realm is in perfect peace and quietness, there is but one thing I request of you.'

The empress said, 'Ask what you will, my Lord, it shall be granted, even to the one half of my dominions.'

Then said the Consul, 'You have but one only daughter in the world, who is the heiress to the empire, and she is confined among stone walls, where she spends the flower of her youth in dull thought and contemplation, when the very meanest of your subjects have an opportunity of seeing and acting the very things, which she (tho' so great a

princess) is only able to imagine ; wherefore send for her to court, that you may have comfort of her, and she may see the customs thereof, and have recourse to the council.'

The empress answer'd, ' My lord, I am very well pleased with your request, for it is seven years since I saw her.' Soon after she dispatched a messenger with a letter expressly commanding the seven Wise Mistresses, upon such a day to bring her daughter Sabrina to court.

S T O R Y IV.

How the seven Wise Mistresses consulted the planets about carrying the princess to court : and how thereby they foresaw the design laid against her life.

WHEN the Mistresses had perused the Empress's letter, they retired into the garden to view the heavens, and with the utmost skill, consulted the aspects of the planets, to know if their journey to the court would be fortunate or not ; but observing a great contention among the signs, they foresaw, that when they presented the young lady, if she should answer any more words than one, her enemies would have power over her to betray her to a most shameful death ; so they were very much troubled all the day ; and about the evening came down the young lady Sabrina to divert herself in the garden, but perceiving the seven Wise Mistresses very sad, she demanded the cause of it ? They answered, ' O Madam ! this morning we received a letter from the Empress, commanding us to conduct you to court ; but having consulted the stars, we plainly foresaw that your journey will prove fatal to you, if for the space of seven

days you speak any more words than one, which is JUSTICE: and this is what grieves us, to be reduced to such a hazard after we have had such success in your education.

The young princess then viewed the firmament herself, observed the motions of the stars, and found their sayings true; but said, 'If you will follow my advice, I question not but I shall be able to bring you off (and myself) with honour.' The Mistresses promising to be directed by her. 'I shall be accused by a wicked person, but if you seven will severally speak for me to my mother the Empress, each day one, the seven fatal days will be over, and then I may speak for myself, and defend my innocence.'

The Mistresses unanimously approved her proposal, and when they were alone, with great joy they said, 'What a happiness is it for us to educate this ingenious lady, whose fame and wisdom will one day make her the greatest Empress in the world.'

The day appointed by the Empress being come they clothed the Princess in cloth of gold, decked her with rich ornaments, and provided a chariot drawn by six white steeds, and in a magnificent manner, attended by a train of pure virgins, she directed her course towards the Empress's court.

S T O R Y V.

How the Empress, attended by all her Princes and Lords, went to meet the young Princess.

THE Empress hearing the Seven Wise Mistresses were upon the road with her young daughter Sabrina, she caused all her chariots to be made ready, and with her heralds, trophies, and

banners, attended by all her nobles, rode to meet them.

In the mean time, the Wise Mistresses, addressing themselves to the princess, said, 'If you please, Madam, we will go to some private place in the city, and diligently observe the planets in their several motions, for the preservation of your life.

To this the young lady willingly condescended, and bowed her head, as though she said, *Remember me in my necessity*; and so they departed, and the young lady continued her journey.

As soon as the Empress met her, she took her into her own chariot, and clasping her in her arms, kissed her, saying, O my dear daughter! the only delight I have in the world, whom God preserve for future blessings, how is it with you? Now I hope you are fitly qualified by learning to sit in my throne after me, and govern with glory and honour the people who will be committed unto your charge. The Empress hoping her daughter would make a pertinent answer, according to the great wisdom she had heard she was endowed with, was surprized at her making no answer, for fear some disaster had befallen her; and then sometimes she imagined, that having been so many years learning other languages, she might forget her own; with a great many other imaginations that fear and fancy suggested to her: but being willing to make her speak, she demanded, what she had learnt in so many years with the Wise Mistresses? She answered **JUSTICE**; so bowed herself and spake not a word more.

Then the Empress acquainted her lords what condition her daughter was in, and said, 'The

Mistresses should die the most shameful death that could be thought of.' But being willing once more to try her, when she came to the palace, she took her by the hand, and led her into the garden, and placed her by her in the arbour, and said, 'My dear daughter, here is pen, ink, and paper, if you will not speak, write the reason of your silence. The princess taking the pen in her hand, wrote these lines :

Through Learning, which doth me adorn,
I very plainly see,
The Star where under I was born,
Proves hazardous to me :
And I in bed have lately dream'd,
What shortly will ensue ;
I seven times shall be condemn'd,
In Judgment-seat, by You.

When the Empress read these lines, she was astonished, and being exceedingly troubled to think that she should give judgment seven times against her own daughter, she wrung her hands, and lamented greatly.

Radamentus, the great Consul, coming into the garden at that time, the Empress said unto him, ' See here, my lord, this is my daughter, the only heiress of the empire : but she is quite dumb.' Radamentus viewing her incomparable beauty, was fired with lust, resolving, if possible, to debauch her, and so bring about her destruction, which was the chief thing he aimed at ; but treacherously answered, ' The young lady is bashful, Madam, at your venerable countenance, and the majesty of your looks ; but if you will be pleased to deliver her to me, I will engage I will make her declare all she has learned with the Wise Mistresses.' But

God was pleased to inspire the heart of the Empress not to let her go with him, whereby he missed his perfidious aim for that time.

S T O R Y VI.

How Radamentus took his opportunity to surprize the Princess in the garden: and how, being repulsed by her, he conspired to take away her life.

RADAMENTUS, after this, being at his chamber window, espied the Princess walking all alone in the garden, having left the key in the door, whereupon going down, he came to the lady on a sudden, as she was contemplating under a tree. The Princess startled at the unexpected presence of Radamentus, began to blush; so that there appeared in her face such a crimson tincture, that the malice of Radamentus was turned into a great love for her, which he thus declared to her:

‘Most lovely maid, give me leave to tell you, that the first time I saw you, your beauty kindled a fire within my breast, and now the sight of you confirms the same. Which nothing can allay, except you vouchsafe me the favour to sleep with you upon this bed of roses, and repose ourselves in the bosom of love.’

The royal princess turning about, with a scornful gesture gave a repulse to his lascivious request, which turned his love to such fury, that running out of the garden, he cry’d out, ‘That he saw the Princess with a man under a fig-tree, committing the foul sin of fornication, to the breach of the law, the shame of her parents, and the destruction of her own soul.’

The Empress hearing this, was struck with horror and amazement, but having recovered herself, she thus expostulated : 'How unhappy am I in such a daughter, who, in the first place, was delivered to me speechless, when I expected her to be perfected in the knowledge of arts and sciences : and now, when I hoped she was adorned with virtue, she is given up to vice ! would to God the day of her birth had been the day of her burial.'

Thus the Empress believed all that the wicked Consul had reported : the nobles that were present, ask'd, *Where he saw this ?* He answer'd, *Under a fig tree ; but* (said he) *the man when he perceived me ran away.* Then the nobles hasted into the garden, and finding the princess walking by herself they ask'd, *What man had been there with her ?* She answer'd nothing. Then the Empress seeing she was in the garden, as Radamentus had reported, believed all he had said, and in a great rage commanded her to be burnt at a stake ; but the ladies addressed themselves to the Empress, saying, 'Gracious lady, she is your only daughter, therefore let her have a little repose, till you better consider of the matter ; it may chance to prove a mistake of the Consul, and if you put her to death rashly, it will turn to your dishonour, and we shall be reproached of all nations ; wherefore let a day be appointed for her trial, and if the twelve judges of your empire find her guilty, let her be condemned in form by the law.'

The love of the Empress to her daughter, overcoming her rashness, she hearkened to this advice, and committed her to prison for the present.

STORY VII.

How Radamentus complained against the young Princess, and accused her of fornication.

RADAMENTUS finding his accusation succeeded, admitted nothing for the prosecution thereof; and coming to the Empress with a dejected look, she said, 'My grave lord and counsellor, why are you so sad?' O Madam, answered he, because of the disgrace the lewdness of your lascivious daughter brings upon the whole empire; and if you suffer her to live any longer, you will be counted as bad yourself: for people will readily say, what need we fear to break the law, since the law makers do it? The daughter of the Empress is a strumpet, and the Empress protects her in it; and thus through her means we shall have vice supported, and virtue depressed.

The Empress replied, 'To prevent all these evils, to-morrow I will sit in judgment, and she shall die by the law.' Then said Radamentus, Be as good as your word, Madam, I advise you, lest it happen to you as it did to a lady in Cappadocia.' The Empress desiring to hear how that was, Radamentus began his story as follows:

THERE lived a lady in Cappadocia, who had in her garden a well of such virtue, that whosoever was bit by any venomous beast, the water thereof would immediately cure them. It happened one day as the lady was gathering flowers, she espied in the corner of the garden at the side of a little rock, a small stream of water abun-

dantly more clear than the virtuous well: which made her imagine that if the rock was cut, there would issue a water more excellent than that of the well: she therefore said to the gardener, procure me a workman to cut a passage out of this rock, that I may have a fountain here; and I give you charge over it, to see it done.

The gardener did so; but the lady coming another time to see the spring, it did not appear with a current so strong as she expected; so demanding the reason of it, the gardener said, 'The original spring was deep in the earth, and had two ways, one to the well, and t'other to the rock; but that to the well being strongest, drew the water most, and caused the other to be too weak.'

Then said the lady, 'Destroy the well then, for doubtless this spring will prove the better water.' The gardener did so; and another day the lady came into the garden to see the new spring, and to taste the water, but it proved very bitter: And having its course through a tin mine, it putrefied the sores, and augmented the pain of those that bathed therein; so that all people cursed the counsellors that advised the lady to destroy the virtuous well. Now, Madam, said Radamentus, I will give you the meaning of what I have said.

The E X P L A N A T I O N.

The virtuous well, great lady, betokens yourself, who governs the people with such equity, that whoever complains to you, have their grievances immediately redressed.

The young spring, is your graceless, lascivious daughter, who will cause your imperial name to

be blasted; and your virtuous government despis'd; her actions, like the water of the new spring, are bitter as running through a tin mine; that is, a base and wicked behaviour, so that she will soon break your heart; then all people will curse the counsellors that advis'd you to let her live. Therefore, great lady, to prevent it, before she is rooted in wickedness. I advise you to put her to death, lest the curses of the people follow you.

I will prevent it, said the Empress, for to morrow she shall die without fail.

When the day was come, the Empress commanded her officers to lead her away to be burnt; and as she was led through the city, cloathed in white lawn, the trumpet sounding her doleful funeral, the people ran out and wept, crying, 'Alas! alas! The only daughter of the Empress is leading to death.'

Then came Halicuja, the first Mistress, to whom the young lady had bow'd her head, as if she had said, 'Remember me when you come before my mother.' When she came to the court, the Empress said, with a stern countenance, 'Thou ungrateful and vile woman, how hast thou tutor'd my child! I deliver'd her to thee virtuous and hopeful, but thou hast return'd her the wickedest creature in the world; for which thou shalt die a cruel death.'

Then said the Mistress, 'Gracious lady, the divine powers know that she is not speechless without a good cause; but as for the sin of fornication, we all can safely testify, that for the space of seven years, we never saw the least wickedness by her, either in thought, word, or deed; and if you put

her to death, only for the accusation of Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did to the queen of Syria, who poison'd her husband thro' the persuasion of one wicked person.'

The Empress desiring to hear this story, the Mistress, 'The princess might be dead before she had made an end; but if she would recal her till she had done, she would declare it.' The Empress consenting, and committing the princess to prison, the Mistress began as follows:

The EXAMPLE of the first Mistress.

IN the kingdom of Syria reigned a queen of great renown, and of such excellent beauty, that many great kings and princes came to court her, each hoping she would be his. The queen delighting much to see jists and tournaments, a day was appointed for every one to shew his valour before her.

But among all the candidates, there was none to be compared for beauty and valour to Darsius king of Parthia; who performed such gallant actions, overcoming all the kings and princes that were there, which so pleased the queen, that she caused the trumpets and drums to welcome him from the field; and the trophies of his victory to be carried before him, and on the next day sent for him to the palace; where being arrived, he modestly kneeled before the queen, and offered to kiss her hand. The queen being charmed with his good behaviour, saluted him with her lips; and giving him further encouragement, they grew so intimate, that, in a while, she took him for her

husband, making him joint king of Syria with her, to the great joy of her subjects: to whom he behaved himself with so much clemency and justice, that he was beloved of all. The queen, for her part, loved the king so well, he mutually returning her affection, that there never was a happier pair.

They had not been long married, when a letter came from the king of Parthia, his father, who lay upon his death bed, enjoining him to come with all speed to him, that he might take possession of the kingdom of Parthia after his decease.

While the king was gone, an evil counsellor in the court, being in love with the queen, intercepted all the king's letters, and informed the queen, that he had married another lady in his own country; which raised such jealousy in her, that she tore the ornaments off her head, wringing her hands, saying, Oh! my dear lord! wherein have I offended you, that another should reap the consolation of your love? The king in the mean time wondering he could never receive any letter from the queen, lamented, saying: 'O my dear lady! What is the reason I can never hear how you do, nor how the affairs of your kingdom stand?

All this while the wicked counsellor intercepted their letters on both sides, and at last invented a strong poison, telling the queen, 'It was of such virtue, that if she would take it, it should cause him to forsake all other women, and make haste home to her.'

The queen believing this wicked counsellor, was very glad, and without the advice of any other, caused a ring to be made, as he said, and put therein the poison, and sent it away to her

husband. When the messenger came before him, he presented the ring to him. The harmless king joyfully put it on, saying, "Twas the most welcome present he ever received, But soon after, his finger beginning to swell he sent for his physicians, who said, 'It was envenom'd with the strongest poison in the world, and he must cut it off or it would infect his whole body.' Then said the king, cut it off! which accordingly was done! then his arm began to swell, and in like manner that was cut off to preserve his life. But the good king finding the poison began to infect the other parts of his body, he thus exclaimed against the queen:

'O thou ingrateful woman! Why hast thou done thus to him who loved thee equal to his own soul? Thou hast done that by poison, which the stoutest champion could not effect by arms! How could'st thou return infectious poison, for the most ardent love! Must I that have won the greatest glory that ever came to Syria, at last be basely conquered by the treacherous force of poison, and the wicked arts of a perfidious wife?—O ungrateful woman!—What hast thou gained but the reproach of all nations, and the curses of good people!—And saying this, he sunk down in his chair, and so died.

Then the messenger hasted home, and told the queen what had happened, and that all which the counsellor had told her of the king was false. At which the queen fell a weeping and wringing her hands, saying, 'O what have I done! what have I done! I have by the advice of an evil counsellor, slain my dear husband the king! O cursed traitor? would God I had never followed thy wicked counsel? But this hand that first received the cursed ring,

shall put an end to this miserable life?" And so taking a knife, she thrust it in her breast, and instantly expired.

Then said the Mistress, 'Understand you Madam, what I have said? Yes, very well,' answered the Empress: 'You have shewed me a good example; without doubt this day my daughter shall not die; this was one of the wickedest counsellors that ever lived.' The Mistress replied, 'Then you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your daughter's life this day for my sake.'

The Second Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus understood the princess had obtained pardon through the means of Halicuja, he retired to his chamber, and pretended excessively to grieve and lament, and refused to come to council; whereat the Empress was much troubled, and sending for him, demanded the cause of his grief, and the reason why he did he did not attend the council. He answered,

"What greater trouble can there be, Madam, to an innocent man, than to be reviled and unjustly traduced by every vulgar tongue? And all people know I have the honour to be your assistant in the empire; and as they believe I steer at the helm of justice, they will conclude that I permit vice, and banish virtue from your court, seeing there has been the crimes of whoredom and fornication committed in your palace, even by the Empress's daughter; and yet she remains unpunished. This will not only be a scandal to me, but to your majesty; whose administration will become an

object of contempt to the whole world, if you suffer such crimes to pass with impunity. And besides it will certainly happen to you as it did to the queen of Epirus, who had such another wicked daughter."

The Empress desiring to hear how it was Radamentus began as follows:

The Second Story of Radamentus.

IN Epirus reigned a virtuous widow queen, who had one only daughter, whom she tender'd above her life. This daughter grew very crafty and ambitious and often conversed with a forcerefs, to whom she complained, that there was but one nobleman (who was her mother's most faithful and chief counsellor) that hindered her from having her will and liberty.

The forcerefs answered, I will teach you how to betray his life, and then you may do well enough with your mother. She desiring to be taught, the forcerefs reply'd.

When he is walking in the garden, go to him, and if he sit down, sit you by him; 'twill be a provocation to move his spirit, and if he proceed, then give him encouragement: but if he refuse, cry out, he has ravished you.

In pursuance of this advice, this wicked wretch watching an opportunity, sat by this nobleman, and smiling upon him smote him gently with the palm of her hand upon his cheek, and said, 'come let us solace ourselves in the bosom of love until the dark evening.'

The nobleman modestly excusing himself, the princess tore her hair, and cryed out, Alas alas!

What shall I do? The queen being at the window, heard the cry, and looking out, espied her daughter in the garden crying and wringing her hands then sending her lords to know the matter, the princess said, 'This man (meaning the harmless lord) under yonder tree hath robbed me of my virginity.' The queen hearing this, said, 'He shall surely die.' The lords answered, 'It is proper to hear him before you put him to death. Nay, said the queen, I have heard my daughter, what need we any further witness? I will believe her testimony above that of the world.' And thereupon commanded the lord to be led away, and put to death, which accordingly was done. And from that time the princess always sought the destruction of her mother? to effect which, on a time she accosted her thus :

'Most honoured Madam, the obedience which I owe your majesty, both as my mother and my sovereign, obliges me to advile you not to undervalue yourself to speak to every mean subject that comes to implore justice; for, familiarity breeds contempt, But if you please to give me a commission to determine all causes under your majesty, it will make you be more respected and likewise ease you of many troublesome affairs.

The queen believing all that her daughter said was for her good, accordingly set forth a proclamation. 'That all persons whatsoever, having business at court, should address themselves to her daughter.' To the people that came to her she appeared very mild, affable and courteous, thereby insinuating herself into their affections: to whom she took her opportunity to say, 'My mother is very peevish, being ancient, but if you will take me for your

sovereign, I will do you justice according to the due administration of the law :’ At which words they were all very joyful, and promised faithfully to perform it. And said she, ‘ Raise an army, and stand on your own defence, and plead that the subsidies, and the heavy taxes are too weighty for you to bear ; and then you shall soon hear from me.’ So the rude multitude did as this daughter advised them ; and then she went to her mother, and acquainted her, that there was a factious people had rebelled, and it was good to suppress them in time, lest they should grow too numerous. The queen then gave her the supreme authority, in granting commissions to raise an army ; and having told her mother, that she must have a great quantity of gold to pay them, the queen delivered two-hundred thousand marks of gold : with which she hastened to her factious crew, whom she paid with her mother’s own treasure, and gave them commissions under the royal seal ; so that all the rest of the subjects were amazed, for seeing their commissions under the queen’s seal, all lay still, thinking it had been no rebellion.

At last the new army advanced towards the court, where being come, this wicked wretch hastened to her mother, and told her, ‘ That she, by fair persuasions, had assuaged the fury of the people, and brought them there to beg pardon, which she desired her majesty to grant them.’

The queen always reposing a great confidence in her wicked daughter’s advice, condescended, and as she was going out to sign their pardons, being conducted by her daughter, she passed over a bridge and a board tilting up, the queen fell into a chas-

dron of boiling oil, that her wicked daughter had provided, and thereby was destroyed.

And afterwards was this wicked wretch proclaimed queen, whose wicked actions and cruel tyranny caused all the neighbouring nations, as well as her own subjects, to hate her; insomuch that she was coming through the city of Crombo, a butcher's man dashed out her brains with his cleaver.

Radamentus then said to the Empress, 'Understand you, Madam, what I have said?' The Empress answered, 'Yes, very well, my Lord; therefore to prevent these evils, this day my daughter shall die.'

Accordingly she commanded her daughter to be led to the place of execution; and as she was going, the Second Mistress addressed herself to the Empress, and doing great reverence, said.

O great lady, if you put to death your daughter for the words of Radamentus, it will happen worse to you than it did to a lady of Barbary and her lion. The empress said, Pray shew me how it was. Then the princess being called back, the Mistress began as follows.

The Example of the second Mistress.

A Certain lady of Barbary and her husband having undertaken a long voyage, it happened that the wind proving boisterous and contrary, they were forced to be a tedious while at sea, so that all their provision was spent; and having continued without food till nature could subsist no longer, they threw dice who should be killed, first to feed the rest; so they eat one another in order as they began till all were eaten except

this lady and her husband, whom pure love hindered from eating each other. At last, having eat all they had to subsist upon, they resolved to die together, and so sewed themselves in one carpet, and laid them down upon the deck, saying, the great God of heaven and earth assist us. By the time they were lulled asleep by the rocking of the waves, there chanced to come upon the deck a great griffin (that is, half an eagle, and half a lion, so that it is neither a bird nor beast, but a creature as strong as a horse) that can fly, and took up the carpet in her claws, with the lady and her husband, as a prey for her young ones, and carried them into a strange island, inhabited by lions, bears, wolves, and such like strange beasts: when the griffin had brought it into his den, and he and his young begun to peck at the carpet, which awaken'd the lady and her husband, who being a stout hero, open'd the carpet, and espied land; and having his sword with him, fought desperately with the griffin, and slew him and all his young. But not knowing how to get off from this island, they wandered up and down till the man died, and then the poor lady, was alone, and comforted by none but God alone. It happened on a time as this lady was wandering about the wilderness, she chanced to meet a mighty he lion, whose roaring seemed to her like claps of thunder, at whose sight she fell to the ground, saying, O great Jehovah! who holdeth the power of all creatures in thy hand, have mercy upon me? And as she drew near unto him, she discovered that he halted and groaned, as tho' he wanted help, so she ventured to him, and looking in his foot, which he held patiently, found therein a great thorn,

which she drew out; this done, the lion fawned upon her, and licked her, and shewed a great love and kindness to her, leading her to his den, where she continued for a long season, feeding upon nothing but the prey the lion brought her, and which way soever she walked, the lion attended upon her, and preserved her from all savage beasts.

At last, as she was mourning to herself, deploring her condition in living in such obscurity in a foreign country, whose daily companion was but a savage beast, her mind yearning after her own habitation, she thus complained; O how hath fortune frowned on me, that I am driven from all human society, and am glad to take my living with the beasts of the field! as she thus complained to herself, the devil chanced to appear unto her, and demanded the cause of her complaint; and she told him all that you have heard.

Then said he to her, What wilt thou give, and I will provide a ship to carry thee home to thy own country? She answered, half my estate. Nay, said the devil, if thou wilt give thy soul at the end of twelve years, I will set thee in thy own country, and thou shalt live and flourish for that term: God forbid, said the lady, I will first end my wretched life in this sorrowful island.

Why then, said the devil, I'll make this bargain with you: If you abstain from sleeping all the time of your voyage, which shall be but three days, I'll have nothing to do with your soul; but if you sleep, I'll have it as I said. Upon this bargain the lady ventured provided she might have her lion with her; so 'twas concluded, and a brave ship came, and took in the lady and her lion;

who, whenever she laid down, he laid down by her, and if she offered to slumber, the lion would touch her with his paw, by which means she kept awake all the voyage, until she landed in her own country.

When she was arrived at Barbary, she went to her father's house, and knocked at the gate, which the porter opened with speed; but believing, because she was meanly clad, she was a beggar, frowningly shut it again, saying, Here is nothing for you: Then she knocked at the gate again, and asked the porter, if such a knight lived there? (meaning her father) and he said yes. Then said she, pray deliver this piece of a ring unto him. Now this ring was the same she brake betwixt her father and herself, at her departure out of the land; then the porter delivered the ring to his master, saying, a beggar woman at the gate desired me to deliver this piece of a ring unto you. When the knight saw the ring, he swooned away for joy; but when he was revived, he said, call her in, for she is my only daughter, whom I thought was dead. Then said the porter, I dare not call her in, for there is a mighty great lion with her. Tho' there be, said the knight, call her in. Then the porter going to her said, you are to come in; but leave your lion out. No, said the lady, my lion walketh where I go, and where he is not, there will I not be.

Then the porter opened the gate, and when she came to her father she fell down on her knees and wept: Her father took her up in his arms and kissed her, weeping at last; but soon after cloathing her in sumptuous apparel, he placed her by him in a chair, and demanded the relation of her travels:

she declared unto him all that happened, and how the lion had saved her life, and was the greatest comfort she had in the wilderness; as hath been related. Afterwards, as the knight was going into his wood to view his young horses, he met with a wild boar, who ran towards him: The lion loved the old knight, and was by chance walking under the side of a hedge, and scenting the boar, he ran with all speed to the assistance of the knight, which the steward perceiving, ran into the house, and cry'd, The lion is running after my master to destroy him. Then the lady sent after him ten of her servants, who met the lion with his mouth all bloody, and they ran back and told the lady, The lion had destroyed her father. Then said the lady, O woe is me that ever I was born! I have brought a lion from far to destroy my own father! And saying this, she commanded her servants to slay the lion; which was no sooner done but her father came in, and said, I have met with a wild boar, who had surely destroyed me, but that the lion came to my assistance, and slew him, and so saved my life. When the lady heard this, she wrung her hands saying, Alas! alas! for the words of a steward, I have slain my lion, who hath saved both my life and my father's; cursed be the time I was advised by him!

The mistress then said, Does your majesty understand what I have said? Yes, very well, said the empress: You have shewed me the danger of evil counsel, which caused the lady to slay so fine a lion; surely I will beware of such bad advice; my daughter shall not die this day. The mistress said, If you do so, you will do well: therefore I com-

mit you to God, and am obliged to your majesty for saving your daughter this day for my sake.

The Third complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus understood the young princess was not dead, he kept his chamber, tore his hair, grieved much, and said, The state of the empire lies groaning under the scandal of all nations; and is reckoned the very sink of wickedness. And as he was thus complaining, some of his attendants overhearing him went and told it to the empress; and she going to him, asked the cause of his lamentation; he answered, O great lady? how can I otherwise chuse, when I reflect on the great scandal that lies on the empire through the lasciviousness of your graceless daughter, and yet cannot have justice executed on her, whereby we may wash away the stain that remains on your honour and my reputation, the world knowing I am your assistant in the government? And since there is no more regard had to the laws, I have just cause to leave your realm and suffer you to plunge yourself into the deluge of unhappiness, that will of course ensue; only the love I bear you and your subjects deters me from it: You know, great lady, if I should leave you to yourself, through your easiness in believing fabulous stories, it would tend to your utter destruction.

Then said the empress, My grave lord and counsellor, pass by sorrow at this time, and I will never neglect your request, but take your advice.

Then replied Radamentus, I wish you would, else I fear it will happen to you as it did to a lady

in the kingdom of Utergo, who tendered her cat as she did her own life, till at last it had like to have tore her throat. Prithee, said the empress, shew the example. That I will gladly do, said Radamentus and began as follows;

The Third Story of Radamentus.

IN the kingdom of Utergo lived a lady who had but one only daughter, whom she loved above herself; she hearing there was a wise and learned woman not far from her own court, committed her daughter to her care, to be educated and instructed in all arts and learning.

It proved that this woman was very skilful indeed, for she was the greatest forcerefs in all the land, though unknown to the lady; so that instead of instructing the child in useful and virtuous learning, she taught her in the art of necromancy, and in seven years time learnt her to transform herself into the likeness of a cat.

Upon a time the lady sent for this learned woman to come to her, and bring her daughter with her, that she might see how she had improved herself in learning. Being come, the lady asked her daughter three questions, viz.

First, What is most pleasing to nature when it is satisfied? She answered, *Ease*; for *when the belly is full the bones desire rest*.

Secondly, How far is it to the bottom of the sea? She answered, *A stone's throw*.

Thirdly, How long is the sun and moon going round the world? She answered, *Four and twenty hours*.

Then said the lady, you have answered well doubtless thou wilt prove a witty woman. They walking in her parlour, she shewed the Mistress a delicate fine cat she had ; and the mistress said it is indeed a brave cat, but I have the finest cat at home that ever was seen ; for she will wait at the table, and discover lost things, so that there is not the like to her in all the world. Then said the lady, Prithee let me have that cat. The mistress answered, if you will let your daughter abide with me seven years longer, I'll present you with the cat. The lady readily consented thereto ; so the learned woman departed with her pupil. Being got home she told her, that if she would act her part, she would teach her how she would enjoy all the pleasure the world could afford. She answering, none was more ready to learn than she : the sorceress, said, you must transform yourself into the likeness of a cat, and I will present you to your mother ; To which consenting, the sorceress took her, hasted away, and presenting her to her mother in the shape of a cat, being of four distinct colours, *blue, red, green, and yellow*. Then said the lady, this is the finest cat that I ever saw ; and taking her into her lap, she fed it with white bread and milk, and would never sit down to meat, but the cat must be at her elbow.

In a little time the cat began to play her pranks ; for there was a maid living in the house, whose carriage was civil, conversation, honest, and who had been a faithful servant all her life. This cat could open any lock, and shut it again ; so she would open the lady's cabinet, take money, and lay it in the way, where the maid should find it :

sometimes in the garden, sometimes in the street; the lady missing her money, and having no suspicion of the maid in the least, wondered what should become of it; at last she missed her bracelet out of her closet, which the cat had took and laid where the maid should come; so the maid, when she found it, little thinking it was her lady's, put it in her trunk; afterwards as the maid was taking out clothes (her lady standing by her) the bracelet fell beside the trunk and the cat snapt it up in her paws, and leapt into the lady's lap; when the lady saw it, she cried out, O thou graceless creature? I have found thee out: Have I kept thee so many years and intrusted thee with all I had in the world, and never entertained the least suspicion of thee? Who knows of what thou hast robbed me at times? O thou wicked wretch? Thou shalt die the shamefullest death that can be thought on. Then said the maid, What have I done? I never wronged you in my life hitherto. O treacherous wretch! said the lady, is not this the bracelet I have lost for above this half year, and here it came out of thy trunk? Who can tell what thou hast robbed me of besides, for I have lost a great deal of money? Then she called more company in, searched her trunk further, and found several pieces of money, which she knew by marks. When they saw that, they apprehended her, and so sent her to prison for life.

This increased the lady's love to the cat so that she would never eat of any dainties at table before she had cut her cat the first bit: But upon a time as she sat at dinner, she happened to forget to carve first for her cat, who thereupon leapt upon the lady; caught her by the throat, and had

It not been for the assistance of some at the table, the cat had killed her,

The lady being amazed thereat, said, She would keep the cat no longer; and when her friends advised her to destroy it, she said, she would not do it for the sake of the learned Mistress that gave it her, to whom she soon after returned the cat, and demanded her daughter. The Mistress accordingly delivered her to the lady, who took her in her arms and kissed her, causing her to repose with her every night; and in token of a motherly love to a child, she gave her a ring from off her finger which she had wore many years; but all these favours, and the affection she shewed her, were not able to make her refrain from the wicked sin of witchcraft, and which she pursued in the following manner.

There was a mill of the lady's not far from the house, and every night this daughter, when her mother was asleep, would go with her associates to set the mill a going, rip the sacks, and throw the corn about the floor, at which the miller wondered greatly, and complained to the lady, saying, His mill was haunted by evil spirits, which would certainly be the ruin of him.

The lady advised him to watch one night with a sword and a light to see what it was; and he did so, but about midnight came in a great cat, to his thinking, and soon after five more, wawling and spitting like devils, their eyes shining like coals of fire. The miller struck at them, they flew in his face, and in a little time destroyed him. In the morning the lady sent to the mill to see how the miller fared; but they found him dead, with his face and throat all tore to

pieces. The next night another watched, and in the morning they went to see how he sped; they found him in the same condition; which so amazed every one, that none would live in the mill. At last there came a stout fellow, and he would undertake to lie in the mill, if the lady would give it him: She consented, and away goes the fellow with a great sword and candle, and enters the mill, about the old hour he hears the mill at work to the purpose; so taking his sword and candle in his hand, he goes to see what guests he had got; but when he came, he saw nothing, the mill standing still; As soon as he was gone, the mill was at it again as hard as before; then he ran back again with his sword drawn, and there beheld six great cats and a little one, with such sparkling eyes staring on him, that he never saw the like before; whereupon he struck at them and they leapt at him on every side, so that he was fain to lay about him lustily to defend himself: at last he worsted two, and they fled through the window, but the rest engaged him so furiously, that they put him almost out of breath; at last they all fled through the window, and he followed close, smote the hindmost, and cut off her fore foot: So when day came, he went to find the foot, but it proved to be a hand, with a fine ring on the finger; and when he saw that, he knew they were witches, and hastened to the lady, who asked him how he fared: He said, He was never so hard put to it in his life. How so? said the lady, Why, said he, there came seven cats, and set the mill to work, and if I had not defended myself stoutly, I had been slain by them; but in the end I made them flee, and as the last went through the window, I cut off her fore foot,

and here it is. When the lady saw that, she knew the hand by the ring, and she remembered (when she awaked) that night she felt her daughter come into the bed trembling and very cold. This thought so terrified her, that drops of sweat trickled down her face. Soon after she went to the bed side to ask her daughter how she did. She answer'd I am not well, pray let me alone. Her mother said, Let me feel how your pulse beats; but she gave her right hand, keeping the other in bed. Then her mother said, give me the other hand; which she refusing, her mother took hold of her arm by force, and found there no hand; then knowing she was the cat that flew at her throat, she said, thou shalt die by the law before thou do any more mischief. O graceless wretch! what shame hast thou brought upon me, having such a wicked child! So she was sentenced to be burnt at a stake. As she was led to execution, she confessed how she had stole the money and bracelet, and laid it where the maid found it, that she might be put to death for theft unjustly. Being arrived at the place, she was burnt to ashes, and the innocent maid released out of prison.

The Explanation of the Example.

THEN Radamentus said to the empress, great lady, I fear it will happen to you as it did to this lady, who, for the love of her only daughter, sent her to school, to be instructed in virtuous learning, but she was tutor'd by a witch in all the arts of necromancy.

In the first place she robbed her mother, and would have laid the theft on an innocent maid.

Secondly, In her wicked transformation, had she not been prevented, she had taken away her mother's life.

Thirdly, Her horrid murder in the mill.

Fourthly, The disgrace and shame brought upon her mother and family. And.

Fifthly, The utter ruin and destruction which she brought upon her own soul.

In the same manner you preserve your daughter, and suffer her to live in all her filthy and detestable ways, till the truth of all things shall break out, and then certainly you will receive utter shame and disgrace even to the ruin of yourself and the whole empire: therefore I advise you to cut her off while she is in the bud, lest she prove in the end a sturdy oak, and there be no cutting her down.

The empress said, You have shewed me a good example; the lady giving her daughter too much liberty she would afterwards have tore her mother's throat, and turned both witch, thief and murderer; but I will take care my daughter shall never serve me so.

Next day the empress commanded her officers to lead her away to be burnt, who obeyed her command; and as she was led through the street, attired in white as before, with book in her hand, the trumpets sounding her doleful knell, the people cryed out, Alas! alas! The only daughter of the empress is leading to execution. In the mean time the Third Mistress (named Circe) came riding by; and as the princess saw her, she bowed her head to her, as much as to say, Remember me: Then the people gathering about her, cried out, O good Mistress! make haste, and by your wisdom save

your scholar. So away she hasted, and came before the Empress, paying her reverence; to whom the Empress said, O thou ungrateful Traytor! thy coming signifies nothing, for thou shalt die as shameful a death as my wretched daughter, and I long till I am avenged on thee and all thy most wicked companions.

Then, said the Mistress, I thought, when I came, to have received much better treatment at your Majesty's hands, and not to have been accosted in this manner. The Empress said, Do you not deserve death? I delivered you my daughter, to be instructed in virtuous learning, and you have returned her again unto me dumb and graceless, insomuch that her lascivious actions sounded all over the empire.

The Mistress replied, As to the cause of her dumbness, I must leave that to God, for *he maketh the dumb to speak, and the deaf to hear*: but as to her being lascivious, I solemnly vow, that in all the time she has been with us, she has never appeared to be in the least addicted to any manner of lasciviousness; and therefore, gracious lady, if you put your daughter to death for the words of one man, it will happen to you as it did to a certain knight and his godson.

The Empress said, What knight was that? Let me hear the story. The Mistress said, I must beg your Majesty's excuse, unless you will suspend the execution of your daughter, and order her to be brought back till I have related it to your Imperial Majesty; which I do not doubt but your own experience will confirm for truth hereafter. The

Empress complying with this request, the Mistress began as follows :

The EXAMPLE of the Third Mistress.

THERE was a certain knight, who travelling through a strange country, chanced to lose his way in a wood, and being a great way from any town or village, and night coming on, he was not able to find his way out ; therefore being much troubled, he began to complain of his hard fortune, in a very doleful manner ; and being heard by a countryman, who chanced to be in the same place, he (to the knight's surprise and joy) issued from among the thickets, and said, Sir, I perceive by your complaints, that you have lost your way, and with your horse are entangled in the brambles of this wood ; therefore as you have a great way to any inn, and the ways bad, if you please to go with me, I will bring you to my poor cottage, and you shall be welcome to the best accommodation that it can afford. The knight courteously gave him thanks, went along with him, and when he came to the countryman's cottage, he shewed the knight a chamber, and provided for his horse ; but the knight being troubled at the success of his journey, sat up all night. About midnight he heard a dismal outcry in the house, and being in such a lonely place, began to suspect that some danger might ensue, and so he knocked to know what was the matter. The maid answered, That her mistress was in travail. The knight hearing this, being skilled in astrology, went down to consult the

planets, it being a bright star-light night ; he presently saw a bad planet going down and a good one rising, signifying, if the child was born under the bad one, his fortune was to be hanged ; therefore he called the maid and bid her desire the midwife, if possible, to suspend the delivery for one quarter of an hour, and the child should be born to good fortune : the maid came, and told him, that it could not possibly be. Then he bid her go in again, and desire the midwife to delay one half quarter of an hour, and the child should be born to good fortune. But she immediately returned, bringing him word, that her mistress was delivered of a jolly boy. Then the knight went in, and said nothing concerning the birth of the child ; but the next morning the father of it came to him, saying, Sir, since you have vouchsafed to lodge in my house all night, be pleased to honour me so far as to name my child ; to which the knight readily consented. And, when the day was come, he named the child, and wrote in parchment his destiny, with a charge also, That he should pray to God continually to preserve him from the impending ill fate : So he sealed it up with a piece of wax, and tied it about his neck with a silk string, charging his father and all friends, not to untie the string to read what it was, till such time as the child was able to read it himself : desiring them to keep him at school very carefully, whereby he might attain to that knowledge to read the writing perfectly himself, and then thanking the father for the favour done him, he took his leave, and departed.

When the child was grown up, and fit to be instructed, he was put to school, and very carefully

attended till he was ten years of age, at which time he was able to read the writing that was about his neck; and upon a time as he was by himself, he took it from his neck, and opening it, read his destiny in these words: *My good child jerve God, and pray to him continually to pass this fate over thee, else thy fortune is to be hanged.* When he had read this, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and begged a blessing from the Lord, and went home very sad and melancholy, and desired his father to give him a new suit of clothes, a little money in his pocket, and his blessing: his father asking him the reason of his request, he said, Pray grant it, for I will go seek my fortune.

His father seeing he was resolute, said, Well, go, and my blessing be with thee. So the boy travelled into a strange country, still praying God to protect him from the unhappy end which he was predestin'd to; and at last came to a knight's house, and desired a service; the knight demanding, what he could do? he said, Sweep your hall, draw beer, and run upon your errands; and I shall always be ready and willing to perform whatever I shall be found capable of. The knight perceiving he was a hopeful boy, readily entertained him; and he proved very careful and diligent in whatsoever he took in hand; still continuing to beseech God at all spare times, upon his knees, to avert the sad fate which was foretold him. The knight observing this, soon after made him under butler, and he persever'd in the same rule, praying to God continually; which conduct so much pleased the knight, that soon after his chief butler dying, he advanced

him to succeed him; in which place he was so obedient to his master, courteous to his fellow-servants, and pleasing to all, except the baker and the brewer, who murmured greatly, saying, This fellow has strange luck! He was but t'other day taken in as a beggar boy upon charity, at the door; soon after he was made under-butler; and now he is promoted to be chief-butler; what will he come to? But this passed on, he grew in favour still; and his master shortly after made him under-steward, which place he discharged with great fidelity; and this promotion made his two adversaries murmur ten times more than before: but notwithstanding, he grew still more and more in favour with the knight; infomuch, that upon the death of the head-steward, which happened soon after, he was preferred to his place. This so incensed his adversaries, that from that time they resolved upon his destruction, which, however, had no effect, by means of his temper, which was not affected, either with pride or ambition; but on the contrary, notwithstanding his preferments, was obliging, pleasant, humble, courteous, and familiar.

When he had, to the satisfaction of his master, discharged for five years faithfully his trust, he made all his accounts even, and desired leave to see his own country; which the knight not only consented to, but furnished him with a horse, money, and all things necessary for his journey, at his own expence, as a reward for his faithful service. Just as he was going away, the baker and the brewer deceitfully came to him, saying, They must drink together before they parted: and while one was drinking with him, the other slipped into his

portmanteau a large gilt bowl, and inclosed it again; and soon after he proceeded on his journey, little thinking of their treachery. No sooner was he gone from the door, but his two adversaries seeking every where, as they pretended, for the bowl, told the knight, That it was missing, and that no body could have it but his steward, who had often defrauded him in that manner, though he reposed such confidence in him, that he would not believe it when they had often informed him of the same; and said they, if your worship please to ride with us, we shall overtake the traitor, and doubt not to find the bowl in his custody.

The knight accordingly rid after him, and soon overtaking him, searched his portmanteau, and contrary to his expectation, and hopes, found the bowl! whereupon he said, O thou wicked wretch! I have been told often how thou hast robbed me daily, and impoverished my estate, yet I would never believe it; but now I have a plain proof of thy dishonesty, for which thou shalt be hanged instantly at the gallows.

The young man being amazed at this adventure, stood up and said, Of this fact I am innocent; and thou, eternal God, who knowest the secrets of all men's hearts, grant me justice now, that thy everlasting truth may take place, and this hidden treachery be brought to light! But finding his protestations signified nothing; and that they were leading him to the gallows, he said, Well, now I perceive that fate is fate, let the world go how it will: which his master hearing, asked him, What he meant? he answered, When my mother was in travail of me, there was a strange knight lodged in

the house, and foresaw my destiny, by his skill in astrology; and, at the request of my father, he was my godfather; and writ in a little piece of parchment my sad fate in these words following: *My good child, serve God, and pray to him continually to pass this fate over thee, else thy fortune is to be hanged*: and sealing it up with wax, he tied it with a silk string, and put it about my neck, charging my father, that no one should read it, till I was capable to read it myself; wherefore I betook myself to travel; and though I obeyed the words in praying to God continually to escape it, I see it doth, notwithstanding, follow me undeservedly, as you behold.

The knight hearing 'this, demanded to see the writing. The young man, taking the string from his neck, gave it him; who no sooner beheld it, but he said, O the mercy of the eternal God of heaven, whose love to his servants is incomprehensible! This is my own hand-writing; I wrote the destiny, I am thy Godfather: and now I will examine the cause better.

Then calling the two false accusers before him, he closely and strictly examined each of them, who at last confessed that they stole the cup and put it into his portmanteau, for which they were both hanged, and the young man saved.

The mistress having thus finished his story, said, Does your majesty understand what I have said? The Empress answered, Yes, very well, by which I perceive, that often the wicked commit the fact, and the innocent are condemned. You have shewed me a good example, therefore my daughter

shall not die. Great lady, said the Mistress, if you do so, you will do well; and I thank you for sparing your daughter this day for my sake, and so commend you to God.

The fourth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus heard the young princess was not dead, he walked up and down the garden like a distracted man, making such a lamentation, that the Empress was informed thereof; who presently going to him, said, My grave lord and counsellor, why do you make this moan? It is not seemly for a man so well accomplished in wisdom and gravity as you are, to break out into such sad complaints. O Madam, said Radamentus, Why should you tell me so? would it not make a stone complain, to see that your judgment is so much stupified, as not to be advised by my grave counsel to suppress such notorious wickedness as will shortly infect your whole court and empire? O that I had died before I had come into these parts! for what honour or reputation I ever gained formerly, I shall now receive ten times as much shame and dishonour: and I fear it will happen to you as it did to a lady in Thessaly with her hound.

Then said the Empress, I pray shew me how that was, for my instruction. If I do, said Radamentus, it would avail nothing; for I shewed you one yester day, and it had no effect: nevertheless, I will rehearse this, which is as follows:

The fourth Example of Radamentus.

IN Rome there lived a great lady, who had such a famous park of deer, that the like was not in

all the land ; and having a gallant hound presented her by an extraordinary good huntsman, she appointed a hunting day for the trial of him ; which being arrived, they roused a buck, and followed the chase, up the hills, down the dales, through the thickets, brakes and bogs, insomuch, that the like was never known in that part of the world : for the dogs hunted up hot scent seven days together, till all the followers were tired, both foot and horse, and left the whole game to the hound, yet still the buck maintained his ground, and the hound his chase, throughout the whole kingdom of Theffaly, above three hundred miles on end, so that the lady and her attendants gave them both over for lost. Soon after a letter came from the king of Macedonia, who knowing how much she admired hunting, informed her thereof ; that there was a buck chased through some of his dominions by a hound ; and that they were returned into Theffaly again.

The lady had scarce perused the contents of this letter, when her keeper brought in word, That the hound and the buck had leaped over the wall, and overjoyed, ran into the park to see them, and perceived that the buck had leaped over the wall, and not being able to go any farther, fell down ; the hound also, through faintness, fell down on the same side of the wall, at a small distance from the buck.

Then said the keeper, This buck is the best runner in Theffaly : and the lady commended the hound for the best in the world ; which was also admired by all the lords of Theffaly for his good properties : among which, one was, that he loved that park of deer ever after, and especially the buck which he had chased ; insomuch, that it was observable, he would constantly every night, go to defend them from wolves, and other ravenous creatures, of his own accord : so that such a dog was never heard of before.

Not long after, the same huntsman which gave the lady this brave hound, presented her with a wolf dog, young and tender, and of a most curious shape and form, which also won the affections of the lady so wonderfully, that she loved him as she loved her life ; and if at any time any body praised him above her hound, she would rejoice and give them great rewards, so that her love to the hound began to decline ; for he used to quarrel with her young dog, they being of contrary natures, for which she would kick him,

and much despise him; but the young dog grew apace well featured and beautiful.

Not far from the court lived Seven Wise Mistresses, whom she sent for to pass their judgments upon this dog. And the first said, It was the finest dog that ever she saw, and he would make a good hunter. The second said, It was the comeliest dog that ever she saw, and he would make a very stately keeper. The third said, It was the tallest dog that ever she saw, and he would be fit for princely game. The fourth said, it was the strongest dog that ever she saw, and would be a brave companion in a forest. The fifth said, It was the most watchful dog that ever she saw, and was fit to keep a treasury. The sixth said, It was a dog, in her judgment, that exceeded all others. And the seventh said, It was a dog, that if well taught and kept, the whole world could not afford his equal.

Then said the lady, I thank you all for the great commendations you give my dog, and I shall prize him as I do the greatest jewel I have: but I have an excellent hound besides, which, of his own accord, doth watch my deer every night, and preserve them from wolves and all savage beasts, and these two can never agree. Then said the first Mistress, The hound is somewhat ancient, and probably will not live long; the wolf dog is young and lusty: and the best of his days are to come; and since they cannot live both together quietly, it is expedient one should die; therefore let the hound be destroyed.

The lady pursued this advice; and soon after the hound was dead many deer were lost out of the park; so that they put the wolf dog to watch; but for all that, a deer in two or three nights was constantly lost, to the lady's great astonishment; who therefore set a man to watch all night in a tree, to observe what beast came to destroy her deer. By the light of the moon, the man discovered the wolf dog upon a lusty buck, having tore his throat.

When the morning came, the lady sent for him, to know what he had seen; and he said, It is even your own wolf dog, which you put to watch them; for I saw him in the night seize upon a stately buck, and devour him, so that nothing is left but his bones. Then the lady began to complain, saying, Alas! have I destroyed the shepherd, and put a wolf in his stead! Have I then through the advice of

Seven foolish women, hanged my good and trusty hound, which looked to my herd, and preserved them from the devouring wolves, and put a ravenous murderer of my deer to keep the park? And with these words she struck the dog three or four blows with a cane: the masterless cur grumbled as if he had been a lion; then said the lady, How now deer-killer? and struck him again; but before she struck the fifth blow, he seized upon her breast, and slew her before the eyes of her servants, who then cursed the counsellors who advised the lady to keep the wolf dog, and kill the good hound.

Then said Radamentus, *Now, Madam, I will apply this.*

The EXPLANATION of the EXAMPLE.

THE lady who took such a delight in hunting, signifieth yourself, who delight in virtuous recreations; inso-much that all the kings of the earth hear of your fame, as the king of Macedonia did of her game. The large and spacious park is your empire, and the deer therein are your subjects; the good hound watching them, is your wife and good discretion, defending them from ravenous wolves, and keeping us in peace and safety from the bloody hands of cruel tyrants. The fair and masterless wolf dog, is your stubborn and graceless daughter, who, by her ill example, will delude all your good subjects, and in the end destroy them as the wolf dog did the deer.

The seven foolish women that counselled the lady to kill the good hound, and let the wolf dog live, are your Seven Wise Mistresses, who daily labour to persuade you to suppress your vigilancy, and wise care of your subjects, and let your lascivious daughter live, whereby she may reign in bloody tyranny, and glut herself with the flesh of your people. The man in the tree, who discovered the dog killing the deer, was myself in my chamber window, espying your daughter (that shameless wretch!) in the garden under the tree, committing the foul sin of fornication; for which detestable and abominable act she ought to die according to the law; for if she live, she will, by her scandalous life, give such a base example, as will delude and destroy many others: and if you should correct her slightly, she will devour you as the wolf-dog did the lady.

Then the Empress said, The dog that the lady loved so dearly, tore her throat at last; but my daughter shall not do so: and forthwith she commands her officers to lead her to the stake. And as she was led through the streets with trumpets sounding her doleful funeral, all the people ran out, grievously crying, Alas! alas! the Empress's only daughter is led again to the stake.

Then the fourth Mistress hastened away to the Empress, and kneeled before her, desiring the Empress to hear her, who said, O thou wicked old wretch! death shall be thy reward, for debauching my daughter as you have done. I delivered her to you hopeful, modest, and well mannered; and you returned her again to me ill taught, full of vice, dumb, and a shameless whore, for which this day she is to die, to the disparagement of the empire, and disgrace of all her family; would to God the day of her birth had been the day of her burial.

O gracious lady, said the Mistress, I little thought of this treatment! surely I have not deserved the least of this your displeasure: The cause of the dumbness of your daughter, I commit to god, and in a little time you shall know the reason of it; but as to her being accused to have committed the foul sin of fornication, that is false, and cannot be proved; therefore you ought not to put your only daughter to death for the words of one single person; for the laws ordain, that there shall be two witnesses in cases of life and death: and if you put her to death for one man's accusation, it will happen worse to you than to a certain queen, who, for putting too much confidence in her counsellors, had her only daughter cut in pieces before the altar, and herself afterwards stoned to death.

The Empress desiring to hear this story, the Mistress said, That, Madam, I cannot do, unless you send for your daughter back again; otherwise she may be dead before I make an end, and then I should talk to you in vain. Then the Empress commanded her to be brought back again, and put in prison: while the Mistress spake as followeth:

The Example of the Fourth Mistress.

IN the kingdom of Thrace reigned a famous queen named Hecuba, who was wise and peaceable, but the king of Lycia being a turbulent and ambitious prince, brought against her a numerous and mighty army. She, therefore, to defend her-

self, fortified her city with a double wall, strong bulwarks, moated it round with a deep ditch, and put therein a good garrison, well provided with all necessaries for a long defence.

The king of Lycia, finding nothing else to oppose him, besieged it; whereupon the queen gave proper instructions to Anthenor and Eneas, her chief counsellors, who immediately assembled the citizens, to advise her to preserve their city, and make their enemies raise the siege: And when they had planted their guards, to favour their retreat, Anthenor issued out with ten thousand men, and made a great slaughter of the enemies, and so returned back into the city. The enemy being again recruited, attempted to scale the walls, but were driven back by the citizens: Then Eneas went out, fought with great valour, but lost many men, and so returned to the town.

At last Anthenor addressed himself to the queen, and said, It were good to consult peace with the enemy, because she had lost many persons of honour, among whom were the queen's two kinsmen, for whom they made great lamentation: and therefore he advised the queen to conclude a peace, that the enemies might depart without destroying the city: assuring her that they could not maintain it against such an invincible power (though the city was well fortified, and had a garrison in it sufficient to repulse twice as many). The queen believing these two evil counsellors, who proved the most perfidious traitors: demanded, who were best to go treat with them?

Then Eneas stood up and said, If it please your majesty, and all your citizens, for the honour of the queen, the safeguard of our city, and the preservation of our lives, Anthenor and I, upon so weighty a matter as this, will go forth. The queen approved what he said, reposing more confidence in them than any other, and the citizens also were pleased with it.

Then Anthenor and Eneas went forth, and sounded a parley, and then the enemies heralds came and conducted them to the camp; where being come, Anthenor said, We have prevailed upon the queen our mistress to suffer us to propose and conclude a truce with you; but if you will grant our demands, we will betray the city into your hands. The enemies promising to grant their demands, Anthenor said, You shall give us ten thousand pounds, continue to us all our privileges and dignities, save the lives of all our friends and kindred, and preserve to them and to us, all our houses, lands, and possessions. Then said the enemies, all these things are granted, and we are ready to swear

the confirmation of it; which they immediately did. Said Anthenor, We must be very private in this thing, and make a counterfeit truce with you, and you must answer our message thus:

That you require a hundred thousand pounds to pay your army, and ten thousand measures of wheat to make them bread, and to set up a wooden horse within the city, in the temple of Minerva. This horse, said Anthenor, must be made hollow, and able to contain a thousand armed men, and when it is in the temple, and you have received your money and wheat, I will give you a signal by a light on the wall, and when you see that, advance with all your army on the back side of the town, and we will open the gates to you: then do with the city as you please; only remember Eneas and I, and our contract. Having said this, they took their leave of them, promising to make their report to the queen, and return an answer the next day. They accordingly told the queen what the enemies demanded, which was an hundred thousand pounds, and ten thousand measures of wheat, and they would depart home into their own country only leaving behind them a wooden horse, which they had provided as a memorandum, or mark of conquest.

Then the queen sighed greatly, and said, What!—have I lost so many of my dearest friends, and must I be constrained to pay so much money and wheat to my enemies, and hire them to go home into their own country? O woe is me that ever I was born; but since it must be so, go tell them, Anthenor, I do grant their demands.

Then Anthenor and Eneas went forth again, and said to the enemies, Your requests are granted, according to all that we have contrived, and you are to appoint the day to receive the money and wheat, that it may be got ready against the time.

The day being accordingly set, and every thing ready, they drew the wooden horse into the city, and placed it in the temple; and the next day drew off from the city. The citizens believing they were in a full march towards their own country, being before much fatigued, made great rejoicings, and afterwards with great security, took their repose.

But about midnight, when they were all dead asleep, Anthenor went to the wooden horse, and called forth the thousand armed men, and Eneas went up to the back tower, and held up a blazing torch to give intelligence to the enemy: who came and entered the town, so that all the streets were instantly full.

Then the bloody traitors, Anthenor and Eneas, shewed them their houses and possessions, never expressing the least regard for the innocent queen, who had a fair and beautiful daughter named Prolixene, whom the wicked Anthenor would have ravished some time before the siege, which she resisting, made him in this manner effect their utter destruction.

The queen and her daughter being at prayers, they heard a woeful noise in the city, which immediately inspired them with a jealousy of wicked Anthenor's treachery: So the queen ran into the temple, and the young princess Prolixene ran and hid herself in an old tower, by which time the enemy had left neither man, woman, nor child throughout the whole city. Soon after, the perfidious Anthenor came to the temple, and seeing the queen there, asked, Where her daughter was? She replied, O ungrateful traitor! are not thy bowels glutted with the innocent blood, but thou must seek to destroy my beloved daughter! Then leaving the distressed queen, he went to the old tower, and finding the young princess, he dragged her out by the hair of the head, and gave her to the enemy, who led her to the altar, and before her mother's eyes, cruelly cut her in quarters, and scattered them about the temple. At this horrid sight, the queen fell down in a swoon; but which being at last somewhat recovered, she said, Now villains! glut yourselves with blood. So tearing her hair off her head, and the clothes from her body, she ran stark mad. And soon after the barbarians carried her into a strange island, and there cruelly stoned her to death: and afterwards burning her city to the ground, they returned home into their own country.

The Mistress having thus ended her story, said to the Empress, You see, Madam, the mischiefs of blindly following the advice of evil counsellors, by this instance of the queen of Thrace, who confiding too much in the fair pretences of two perfidious traytors, came at last to have her daughter cut in pieces before her own eyes, herself stoned to death, her subjects massacred, and her whole city destroyed: Therefore be advised, and put not your only daughter thus to death for the words of one counsellor, lest it happen to you as it did to this harmless queen. The Empress said, you have shewed me a good example, tho' it grieves my heart to think of it,

for they were the wickedest counsellors that ever were; surely I will take no such advice, for my daughter shall not die. The Mistress said, if your Majesty adhere to this resolution, you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your daughter this day for my sake; and so I commit you to God.

The fifth Complaint of Radamentus.

RADAMENTUS hearing the young princeſs was not dead, immediately retired into his chamber, ſighing and lamenting moſt bitterly, and cauſed all his apparel and equipage to be made ready, as though he was juſt going to return into his own country. The ſervants perceiving this, acquainted the Empreſs, that their lord Radamentus was preparing to return into his own country: who thereupon haſtened to his chamber, and ſaid to him, O my grave lord, I thought you had been more tender of my ſafety, and regardful of the good of the empire, than to go and leave me thus. To which he answered, 'Tis true, Madam, I tender your welfare as much as my life, and you cannot but be ſenſible, that your glory, and the ſafety of the empire, have ever been the chief objects of my care; but as I have now the unhappineſs to ſee your Maſteſty engaged in ſuch reſolutions, as will render entirely uſeleſs all my care, and which tend to the utter ſubverſion of virtue, which is the moſt ſolid foundation of all ſtates, I cannot but reſolve to quit your Maſteſty's court, leſt the world who know that I have the honour to be your chief counſellor, ſhould cenſure me as the encourager of the vice and debauchery which reigns, by means of your wicked daughter, in your court. I had rather, Madam, continued Radamentus, with a diſſembling ſigh, hear of your ruin, than ſee it; for you will be ruled by the words of the fooliſh Miſtreſſes, till at laſt it happen to you as it did to a Roman Lady and her daughter, of which I could give you a very good inſtance.

The Empreſs deſiring to hear it for her information, he ſaid, Though I ſhew you all the examples in the world, and give you all the advice I am capable of, and it tend even to the preſervation both of your life and empire, as indeed it

doth, yet you will not follow my counsel : nevertheless I will relate this to you, hoping, that henceforth you will not delight to hear the Mistresses, whose idle fables subvert your wife judgment.

The fifth Example of Radamentus.

IN the famous city of Rome there lived a certain lady, whose worth and renown was spread throughout the whole empire ; for she was virtuous in conversation, modest in behaviour, gracious to her servants, and in reference to the poor, endowed with an excellent spirit of liberality ; so that she had the prayers of all. This lady had two beautiful daughters ; the eldest of whom she kept at home with her ; and the youngest she put abroad, to be taught and instructed.

In process of time this lady sent for her daughter, expecting she had learnt much for the future conduct of her life ; but when she came home, alas ! she was never the better ; which extremely troubled her ; insomuch, that she to have her immediately under her own eye, kept her at home, and sent the eldest abroad ; which being done, this young girl began to do nothing but play, taking what liberty she pleased. And being at last grown to maturity, she would not go abroad without much money ; which her mother was obliged to give from time to time ; but she had ways to spend more than her mother allowed her, if it had been twice as much ; for she kept a private lover in the city, and many nights when her mother was asleep, she would take the keys from under her head, and go out to her lover, and towards break of day come in again, her mother not perceiving it. But on a time, wondering how her daughter came to be so cold, she asked her the reason of it : who answered, The cramp had taken her in her leg, and being loth to awake her, she arose and walked about the chamber to drive it away ; so that the excuse past for current.

The next night, missing her out of bed, she put her hand to feel for the keys, but they were gone ; so when she came in about break of day again, she said, O daughter ! where have you been now ? Truly, said she, I had a tooth did

ache so grievously, that I thought I should have died; and you being fast asleep, I was loth to disturb you; therefore, I took the keys and went to the chirurgeon to draw it, but I could not make him hear me. So this second excuse past as current as the former.

Another time finding the key of her mother's cabinet, she had another made by it, whereby she could go to the cabinet for money when she pleased. Her mother often missed money, but little thought of her own daughter; sometimes fathering the crime upon the maid, sometimes upon the man, so that the family was always at strife and variance.

But at length it happened, that the daughter going to her mother's cabinet for more money, went away, and left the key behind her in the cabinet: her mother seeing a key therein, and knowing she had her own in her pocket, let it alone, and watched behind the curtain to see who would fetch it out; by and by in comes her daughter, and snatched the key out: but her mother caught hold of her, and said, O graceless wretch! Is it thou that hast robbed me these two years together! Now I have found thee out: O wicked creature! Thou hast been often accused to me, but I would never believe it, till now I see it, for which thou shalt die a shameful death.

At that time, there lived not far off an old woman, who used to give advice to this wicked daughter in all her base pranks, and therefore in this time of necessity, she sent for her to come, and by her craft and cunning, to try to save her life.

When the old woman was arrived, she said, O virtuous lady! be not so furiously bent against her; she is your daughter, born of your own body, whom you have nourished many months at your breast, and we are all guilty of faults in our youth; therefore let her not come to shame for the first crime. The severe law will forgive a malefactor for the first fault: much more then ought a natural mother to do for a child; and you should consider, if you put her to death, it will be a great disgrace to all her family, and you will be branded for tyranny. Upon these words, the good mother was pacified, and pardoned her.

It happened afterwards, as the lady was walking in the evening in her garden, she espied her daughter lying with a

strange man under a tree : at which sight crying out with a loud voice, she said, O thou lascivious creature, worse than any beast ! I have pardoned thee for theft already, and now thou art fallen into whoredom ; if I suffer this, all people will curse me.

Then the old woman came again, and said, O good lady, save her life : consider, she is young, and what she hath done is through ignorance and foolishness ; but remember the old proverb, *A naughty girl may make a good woman* : and the scripture saith, *He that is without fault let him cast the first stone*. Therefore hide her shame this time, and if ever she comit the like again, do your pleasure.

Through her foolish persuasion, the good lady again pardoned her : but said to the old woman, It is very seldom that any who are addicted to theft and whoredom, escape being guilty of the sin of murder also : for I am much afraid of it.

The good lady, then to prevent this, kept her within doors so strictly, that she could not go abroad to see her lover to feed him with money as she used to do ; therefore he would come and speak to her through the window, from whence she would throw him many of her mother's pieces of plate, and other valuable things : which made the lady wonder how her goods should be lost, and her daughter never go out of doors any farther than the great window, where she observed she stood every night.

But soon after, the lady herself standing under the window late, to hear the pretty nightingale warble forth her melodious notes, her daughter supposing she had been her lover, threw out the great silver cup. The lady perceiving out of what window it came, took it up, and having sent for her daughter down, she bid her go fetch her a cup of wine ; she answered, she had been looking for that cup, and it could not be found. Then the lady took the cup, and shewed it her, saying, Wilt thou never leave thy tricks, thou graceless wretch ! now thou shalt certainly die a shameful death, the just reward of thy demerits.

The old woman, hearing this, came in all haste, beseeching the lady to save her life but once more, and she would undertake to reclaim her, and bring her to goodness herself. Hereupon the lady pardoned her once more.

Not long after, the daughter married her lover (who was a poor scandalous fellow, and both a thief and a murderer)

without her mother's consent, who refused to give her any portion; whereupon she consulted with the old woman what to do, having no means to subsist upon. She advised her to take a little poison ball, and when her mother called for beer, to put in two drams of it, saying, That will dispatch your mother, and then you may have all.

The wicked daughter joyfully put this advice in execution, and gave her mother the fatal potion, whose bowels being almost burnt up by the poison, she called for more drink, to assuage the scorching pain; whereupon her daughter put some more of the poisoned ball into the cup, and gave it her mother, who drinking the same immediately dropped down dead; having lived to the age of fourscore and ten, in the love and applause of all good people: for which horrid fact the wicked wretch was afterwards deservedly burnt at a stake.

Then said the Empress, This was the wickedest daughter that ever I heard of. To prevent such mischiefs, my daughter shall not live a day longer. And saying this, she commanded her officers to lead her to be burnt; and as she was leading through the streets, to the grief of all the people, the fifth Mistress met her, and hastened away to the Empress, and being arrived she did her reverence; to whom the Empress said, You are come, but it shall be at the price of your life. The Mistress answered, O Madam, I have not deserved to die; for your daughter hath not committed the crimes which are laid to her charge, as hereafter you will find; and the reason that she does not speak, is owing to her wisdom and knowledge, as will be shortly evident to all the world: and if you put her to death for the words of one man, it will happen to you worse than it did to the queen of China.

Then said the Empress, Pray shew me that example: That I shall not do, said the Mistress, unless you call your daughter back again; for before I make an end, your daughter may be dead. Then the Empress commanded her to be brought back; and now the Mistress, whose name was Deborah, began as follows:

The Example of the fifth Mistress.

IN China reigned a virtuous queen, renowned far and near for her great wisdom and discretion; who was

espoused to a great Eastern king, who had a grave counsellor, without whose advice he would do nothing.

Soon after their marriage, there arose a great rebellion in the king's country, whereby he was caused to go to suppress the rude multitude; which taking up some time, his queen grew big with child; and this counsellor, whom the king left to advise her, wrote a letter to his master, That she was very familiar with a nobleman in the court, whose name was Palmedis, and that he believed that what she went withal was a bastard. This he did through wicked treachery, thinking to himself, the king was ancient, and would be the sooner inspired with jealousy; and if he could kill the queen and the child she went withal, the king could not live long; and then, thought he, I shall rule the land.

- Now when the king had received this letter, he hastened home, and accusing his virtuous queen of adultery, he would not suffer her to come into his company; then this treacherous counsellor went to the queen, pretending friendship, and advising her to go in a facetious way, and present the king a bowl of wine: the queen always thinking he had been a most faithful friend, did as he had advised her; but before she brought it, he wrote a letter, and dropt it in the king's chamber; which signified, That if the queen at such a time, did present him with a bowl of wine, he was a dead man, for it was poison. And as the queen came in with innocent love, presenting the king with the bowl of wine, he kicked it all down, saying, Thou wicked wretch! now I do perceive thy vile actions; thou hast defiled my bed, and defamed my honour, and art thou now come to poison me? I swear thou shalt die the cruellest death that can be thought of. So he committed her to prison, and as she lay there she breathed out these complaints:

O fortune! why hast thou used me thus? I am a king's daughter, and was born to govern a flourishing kingdom; but instead of a palace with rich perfumes, I am choaked up in a dungeon of filthy fogs: When I thought to be embraced in princely arms, and courted with royal salutations, I am here accused with slanderous crimes that the gods know I am innocent of.

And thus, through grief and sorrow, her time being near, she fell into travail, and was delivered of a comely girl;

which news being brought to the king, he said, Take the brat and throw it into the sea. When the messenger came and told the queen, she wrung her lily white hands, and the tears gushed from her crystal eyes, running down her rosy cheeks; and said, Ah! wretched babe! hardly conceived in the womb, before envied, and now scarcely born, before thy death is determined! And must the wide ocean be thy nursery, the raging waves thy rocking cradle, the firmament thy canopy, and the jaws of Neptune thy grave! O! then let the God of Fortune be thy guide, and the whistling billows sing thy lullaby! So kissing its tender lips, and bathing them with her briny tears, she delivered the infant to the messenger, who by the order of the king, put it into a cock boat, covering it with green leaves, and launched it forth on the roaring billows.

After it had been for a considerable time wafted about by the tempestuous surges, it was at last cast ashore in a remote part of the same country, among the sands. Long it had not been there, before a shepherd coming that way to look for a stray sheep, heard the child cry, and thinking it had been his sheep browsing upon the edge of the rocks, he hastened down to see, and there found the cock boat rested upon the sea-sand; so he took the child, and bred it up, and it grew to to be the most beautiful girl in the world: and the shepherd, in process of time, set her upon the mountain to keep sheep.

Upon a time, it chanced that the king her father came a hunting that way, and looking upon her, was so surprized with her beauty, that he said, Fair shepherdess, what family do you belong to? Or are you some rural goddess descended from your abode, to keep sheep for your recreation on earth? She answered, I am a poor shepherd's daughter, and bred up in yonder cottage. Then said, the king, Fair virgin, will you leave your flock, and come to court? there your eyes shall be ravished with triumphant shews, and your ears delighted with melodious music; you shall drink out of gold, and be cloathed with purple.

She replied, The sweetest music that she delighted to hear, was the bleating of the sheep; and the finest shews, their new shorn fleeces; a shepherd's weed, she said, was a greater satisfaction to her than purple; and a wooden dish more fit for her quality than gold.

The king being much pleased with her humility and ready answers, went to the old shepherd, and demanded whose daughter she was? He answered, She was his. Nay, said the king, that cannot be, for her countenance shews her to be of a princely race; and if you do not tell me the truth, you shall die a cruel death.

Then commanding him to be led to the gallows, the shepherd fell down upon his knees, and besought the king that he would spare his life, and he would tell him. The king bidding him declare, he said, Upon a time, as I was at the sea-side, looking for a stray sheep, I heard something cry, and supposing it had been the sheep that I missed, I went to see, and there I found a small boat the waves had cast ashore, and therein a child wrapped in a scarlet mantle, in which was a scroll of writing, containing these words:

*Whosoe'er thou art that shalt this Infant find,
Maks much of it, and to the same be kind;
For she to mighty fortune may thee bring,
Being only daughter to a royal king:
Then bring her up as if she were thy daughter,
And thou shalt be rewarded well hereafter.*

When the king heard this, he knew she was his daughter whom he commanded to be thrown into the sea, and said, Since the gods and fortune have favoured her, I have no reason to hate her. And so giving the shepherd great rewards, he commanded her to be brought home to the palace, and clothed in a most splendid garb, making her sit at his right-hand. After that, he dispatched four of his noblemen to the island of Delphos, to inquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether the queen was guilty of the charge laid against her? When the noblemen came into the temple before the Oracle, they did reverence, and the oracle spake as follows:

Stand here two hours, and speak not one word, and the third hour you shall find on the back side of the oracle, a scroll of parchment sealed up: that take, and haste away to the king; but presume not to break it open till you come into the judgment-hall, before all the council; and there the king shall find the truth written.

Then they did their obeisance; and having done as the oracle commanded, they took shipping, and soon arrived in their own country. When they came before the king they acquainted him with what the oracle had commanded them to do, and forthwith the king assembled all his lords into the judgment-hall, every one expecting a sad doom for the queen; but when the scroll was broke open and read, it proved thus:

The queen is innocent. Her child is lawfully begotten. The old counsellor is the traitor; and the king shall die without an heir. if equity and justice take not place.

When the council heard this, they all rejoiced, and the king sent immediately for his queen out of prison; but the messenger brought him word back, that the queen was dead. Then the king fell a weeping and wringing his hands, saying, O what a miserable wretch am I, that believed such an old cursed traitor as I have done! O woe is me that I was born! My child had been drowned in the sea, had not good fortune preserved her; and now I have killed my virtuous and innocent queen by an unjust and cruel imprisonment, through the advice of a treacherous old villain: but he shall die the most miserable death that can be thought of. And immediately he commanded four wild horses to be brought, and tying each of his hands and legs to the several parts of the horses, they drew him limb from limb; his quarters were thrown to the beasts of the field, and fowls of the air, as a just reward for his treachery.

Soon after this, the king erected the richest tomb that ever was seen, for his queen, and commanded all the lords and barons of the land to appear at her funeral, which was solemnized in extraordinary state, and her corps was honourably interred in his chapel; and upon her tomb he caused to be engraven these words;

*By means of a perfidious traitor, I
Have caus'd in prison my good queen to die:
In token of my grief, and great respect,
I to her memory this tomb erect;
Which shall her virtue vindicate, and be
A warning how a king's misdeed like me,
And whoso'er thou art that passest by,
Curse him that caus'd my virtuous queen to die.*

Then said the Empress, 'You have shewed me a good example to beware of bad counsels, therefore my daugheer shall not die.' And the Mistress departed from her with a joyfull heart.

The Sixth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus perceived that the young princeſs was reprieved again, he grew ſo impatient, that every one thought he would have run mad: therefore they ran and told the Empreſs, that Radamentus was going beſide himſelf; for they never ſaw him before in ſuch a frantick humour; then the Empreſs went to him, and ſaid, 'Wherefore, my good lord, are you ſo impatient? He answered, 'O Madam how can I hide my grief! The great love I owe your majeſty prevents me from leaving you; and if I ſtay, I ſee nothing but ruin and deſtruction ready to fall upon you, for ſuffering ſuch laſcivious actions, committed by your graceleſs daughter, and not ſuppreſſed according to law, as makes me aſhamed to go out in the ſight of the ſun: my advice, which you ought to receive you ſlight; and rather believe the old wives fables: therefore I fear it will happen to you worſe than it did to the lady, who tender'd her young lion, till at laſt he tore her throat. O! my good lord, ſaid the Empreſs, ſhew me that example: he reply'd. 'I will readily obey your majeſty, but it ſignifies nothing; for to morrow the miſtreſſes will again amuſe your ears with ſome fabulous ſtory or other, and then you will pardon your daughter as heretofore: but however, at your majeſty's command, I will relate this one ſtory more, hoping that it will have it's due weight with you.'

The Sixth Example of Radamentus.

IN the kingdom of Perſia lived a lady, who being with child, longed for a young lion, for which a ſtrict ſearch was made all over Aſia. At laſt a nobleman being hunting in a wild foreſt, chanced to catch a lion's whelp, and ſent it to the lady, who no ſooner received it, but fell in labour, and was delivered of a boy, in whom ſhe placed her chief delight. She alſo took a great liking to the lion, whom ſhe alſo kept by her, feeding it with all the dainties ſhe poſſibly could get, and the lion would

follow her up and down the house, and seemed as tame as a dog ; at last he would walk abroad, and run among the sheep, but meddle with none because he was continually fed with such dainties, that he had no occasion to kill the sheep, which made the lady love him so much the more, tendering him as she did her child.

But upon a time, the lady going from home, and committing the charge of her young lion to her maid, she did not give him the same attendance as her lady ; wherefore he ran out among the flock, and slew one of the best sheep therein, and devoured him.

When the lady came home, the shepherd complained to her, and said, 'The lion has slain one of the best sheep in the flock ;' 'Alas ! if he has slain one of the flock, it is but by chance : for he is a whelp, and knew not what he did ; but if we catch him again doing such a trick, we will correct him for it.'

A little time after, he came into the flock and slew two, and devoured as much as he could, and what was left, a greyhound of the house found and eat. The lion being come home first, and got to his couch, there was no suspicion of him ; but the poor greyhound coming home with his chops all bloody, the shepherd laid all the blame upon him ; wherefore the lady commanded him to be killed ; which verifies the old proverb, 'It is safer for some to steal a horse, than others to look over the hedge.'

The third time the lion went to the flock, he slew three, and glutted himself with their blood : then the shepherd complained the second time of him, but could have no redress ; the lady still pardoning him, hoping he would mend. But the fourth time he fell among the flock, he slew and wounded above twenty ; which made every body blame the lady very much, for keeping a ravenous beast to destroy so good a flock ; yet she would not kill him, nor hardly give credit to what they said ; but being persuaded she could reclaim him she kept him in her chamber close for two or three days, and he lay just by the cradle where her young Son was.

It happened one morning, that his wrath began to rise, and his eyes seemed as red as blood ; and walking up and down the chamber, he smelt to the cradle where the infant lay, and

at last jumped upon him, and tearing him all to pieces, eat him before the mother's face. Then the lady wrung her hands, and cursed the time she refused to kill him. But that did not satisfy the savage beast; for after he had dispatched the child, he leapt upon the lady, and tore her joint from joint; and when the servants hearing her cry out ran up, and looked through the key-hole, all the chamber was full of blood.

Radamentus having thus ended his example, said, 'I fear Madam, it will happen to you, as it did to this poor lady, in tendering and saving your wicked daughter, notwithstanding the crime she is guilty of; so that when she comes to have power she will destroy your subjects the good sheep and after that bring you to a miserable end.' Then said the Empress, 'surely that shall not be, for to morrow my daughter shall die.'

The morning being come, she commanded her officers to lead her away to the stake. While all the people were lamenting the fate of the princess; as she was led to execution, the sixth Mistress appeared in sight, and hastened to the palace with all speed; whither being come, the Empress disdainfully looked upon her, and threatened, that she should die with her daughter.

The Mistress said, 'I have not deserved this at your majesty's hands; and as for your daughter, you shall certainly hear her speak for herself within three days, and then all the truth will come to light; but if you put her to death for the malicious accusation of one man, it will surely happen worse to you than it did to the princess of Burgundy, who, by the advice of an evil counsellor, would have put to death her own daughter, but that she was prevented, and the treason happily discovered.'

The Empress desired to hear that story, and the princess being recalled, the Mistress began as follows.

The Example of the Sixth Mistress.

THERE lived in Burgundy a fair widow princess of great worth and renown, who took wonderful delight in seeing jacks and tournaments; and upon a time, there came several

brave princes and nobles to shew their valour before this princess; of all whom, none so much distinguished himself as the valiant Brutus, one of the knights of Malta, to whom occurred the glory of the day, so that the princess was enamoured of him, and could not keep her eyes off him all the day.

When night drew on, Brutus was conducted out of the field with great honour, trumpets sounding, drums beating, and the trophies of victory carried before him.

The lady was all the while in the palace window, and so pleased with his manly behaviour, that she burned in love to him, and knew not how to reveal it. But after some consideration, she invited the knight to a banquet.

Brutus received this invitation as a great honour, and at the prefixed time, appeared before the princess in such a magnificent habit, and comely deportment that she was ravished therewith. After mutual civilities and some conversation, they went to dinner, and passed away the time in complimentary discourses, to the extraordinary satisfaction of the princess.

Now this lady had a beautiful daughter, full of modesty and virtue, upon whom the knight had fixed an eye; but the princess imagining the knight was more ambitious to court her than her young daughter, had no jealousy upon her account; so after they had feasted together for the space of a week, the knight most courteously took his leave and departed home promising to come again soon after.

But the time of his promise being elapsed, and the knight not coming the princess wondering at it, asked her steward, what he thought might be the reason of it? he answered, that he perceived the sight of her little hound displeased him, therefore he would not come. Hereupon the princess, though she extremely loved that hound, commanded him to be put to death which was accordingly done.

Soon after, the knight came again, and as he was passing through a dark room in the palace, he chanced to stumble, whereupon he said, I will never come this way again; which the princess hearing asked the steward, why he said so? He answered, Because the parrot was in that room. O said the lady, though I prize that bird as my life, go and kill it. After they had passed away a whole month in all manner of princely delight and recreations, the knight again took his leave and

departed, promising to return in a certain time ; which being again elapsed, the princess admired his absence, asking her steward, whose advice she took in all things, ‘ What might be the reason of it ? ’ He answered, ‘ The knight has more love for your daughter, than for your highness ; for always when he is here, out of your sight, she is wantonly playing with him ; and besides, I am well assured she secretly conspires your death ; and if she live much longer, will certainly prove your ruin.

Then the princess commanded her daughter to be sacrificed to Apollo ; and accordingly there was an altar erected before the palace gate, covered with black, and four great wax candles set in sockets of silver, a chafing dish full of coals, and a knife for the executioner. All things thus in order, the young lady was brought to the altar, attended by twelve maiden ladies arrayed in white vestments : and being almost at the point of yielding to the fatal stroke, she turned to the princess (her mother) and spake as follows :

Dear Princess, my most Honoured Mother.

“ I Am here brought in the prime of my youth to be sacrificed for crimes laid to my charge, which the great God, I shall shortly appear before, knows I am intirely innocent of, as well in thought as action. And though now I die (a victim rather to the insatiate ambition of a false accuser, than to please the great divinity I am offered to, who delights not in human blood) it is in firm confidence, that the glorious God of heaven, who knows the secrets of all hearts, and my spotless innocence, will, in due time, bring the truth to light, to the eternal shame and confusion of the unjust, who are guilty of this my untimely death : And then honoured Madam, your highness will not refuse my memory, those tears and that compassion which now your cruel displeasure denies me !

She had scarce made an end of her speech, when the valiant Brutus, who was just returned from Malta, rushed into the palace yard, making a lane with his steed among the crowd, and rescued her from the knife of the executioner, and bringing her into her mother, said, You had but three things in your palace, Madam, besides yourself, which I delighted in, and those you have or would destroy.

The princess asked who those were? The knight replied, they are your hound, your parrot, and your daughter. The princess said, My steward informed me, that the hound offended you, and advised me to kill him: Another time he told me, the parrot displeased you, and counselled me to destroy it: And thirdly, he assured me, that my daughter had most wickedly conspired my death, for which he earnestly advised me to sacrifice her to Apollo.

Then said the knight, Your highness ought to have better proof in all these cases; and not have rely'd so much upon the malicious advice of one designing counsellor, whose treachery shall be immediately manifested to you.

The steward being then called, the knight sternly demanded, If ever he had told him that he was offended either with the hound or parrot? He answering no; the knight said: Didst thou ever know the young lady in any one respect, conspire the death of her mother.

The steward, full of confusion, made no reply, but fell upon his knees, and begged pardon of the

princess. But she turning to him in great fury, said O cursed traytor! what hast thou made me do! I have slain the hound I loved so dearly, and the parrot as I did my life, by thy pernicious advice, and now I have offered to put to death my only daughter, through the same treacherous counsel; for which thou shalt surely die: And saying this, she commanded him to be led to the gallows, and hanged.

Now said the Mistress, Does your majesty understand what I have said? Yes, very well, said the empress; and it rejoiceth my heart that the young lady was saved: Therefore my daughter this day shall not die. Then said the Mistress, If you do so, you will do well: therefore I commend you to God, and thank you for sparing your daughter this day for what I have said.

The Seventh Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus heard the princess was pardoned again, he ran up and down the garden like a mad-man, crying, O unhappy man that I am! that I should come into this country to execute justice, and am constrained to see vice supported, and virtue abandoned!

The Empress hearing these complaints, said, My lord, leave these lamentations; justice shall be done. Madam, answered Radamentus, I am grieved to the heart for your majesty, who are blindly led into a snare to your own destruction; for it will certainly happen to you as it did to a certain queen of the Vandals.

The Empress desiring to hear that story, Radamentus said, it will signify nothing to tell your majesty; for I have shewed six already, and yet you are dissuaded from taking warning

by them by six foolish women : Nevertheless I will shew you this one : which shall be the last I ever shall trouble myself or your majesty with.

The Seventh Example of Radamentus.

THERE was a certain queen of the Vandals, who had a very beautiful daughter, whom she entirely loved, insomuch that she could not endure her out of her sight.

Upon a time as they were walking in the garden, the young lady had a bird in her hand, which she would very fain have caused to sing, and because it would not, she picked out its eyes with her bodkin, and letting it loose the bird flew back, and accidentally alighted on the branch of a vine, which grew over the queen's window, and sing for a while, very dolefully every morning ; which the queen hearing, upon a time said, O that I knew but the meaning of what this poor bird so mournfully sings, now its eyes are out !

An old grave counsellor, whose name was Memon, hearing the queen say so, stood up, and said, If it may not offend the queen, I will declare the interpretation. The queen commanding him to expound the meaning, he said, Gracious lady, the bird warns you to beware that your daughter pick not out your eyes as she did his, and that you cut her off before she come to that maturity as to sit upon your throne with the throne upon her head, when you, are brought to the bar of justice upon your knees and cut off unjustly.

This interpretation displeased the queen who rebuked the counsellor, and said, This is but a fable : my dear child is of no such nature. Thus contemned she this seeming wholesome advice, according to the proverb, Till the time of repentance was too late.

As her daughter grew up, the queen doated more and more upon her, insomuch, that she resolved to invest her with a power equal to her own ; So that she should govern the kingdom one year, and her daughter another ; and in order to this, she issued a proclamation, importing, That

whosoever her daughter should enact in her year, should be observed as a law for ever established.

Soon after the young lady was crowned with great ceremony, and invested with the regal authority: but when she had on the royal robes and crown, and all the power in her own hands, she thought they became her so well, that she was loath to part with them; and accordingly took measures to keep the same. For no sooner was she settled in her annual government, than she taxed her mother of high-treason for the death of her father, and brought her upon her knees before the bar of justice, while she sat upon the royal throne.

The queen perceiving her daughter's tyranny and ambition, the night following made her escape, thinking to raise an army, but in vain: For being presently missed, diligent search was made after her; and when they had taken her, the daughter, to prevent her future escape, bored out her eyes.

Then, too late, the poor queen remembered the song of the blind bird, and bitterly weeping, said, cursed be the time that I refused to take the caution of the bird!

After that, this wicked daughter brought her again to the bar of justice, and found her guilty of endeavouring her escape, and in one day she deposed her of kingdom, crown, and life, by compelling her to drink a glass of poison; reigning afterwards such a wicked tyrant, that all people cursed the day she was born.

Then said Radamentus. This, Madam, was the miserable end of a fond mother: and I fear your wicked daughter will prove so to you, if you let her live. God forbid, said the Empress; but to prevent it, to morrow she surely shall die.

Accordingly, the next morning, she commanded her officers to lead her away to the stake, which was presently done. Then Penthefiles the Seventh Mistress, came and threw herself at the feet of the Empress, beseeching her to spare her daughter but that once, and she should hear the innocence of the princess asserted by her own mouth the next day: assuring her, that otherwise it would happen to

her as it did to a certain rich widow: Of whom she offered to relate an example, provided the Empress in the mean time would remand her daughter from execution. To which the empress assenting, the Mistress began as follows:

The Example of the Seventh Mistress.

THERE was a certain widow, who had such a great and plentiful estate, that she was obliged to make choice of a grave old priest to be her assistant: to whom she left the chief management of her estate, believing she might justly confide in him.

This widow lady had one only daughter, who was the sole heiress of all her large possessions: and the old priest observing the great trust the lady reposed in him, resolved to make his advantage of it, and to endeavour to dispossess the daughter, not questioning but then he could soon be able to defraud the widow of her estate.

Accordingly, upon a time he said, It cannot but be very convenient, Madam, since you are a widow, and I a bachelor to conclude a marriage, provided you will cut off the entail, and disinherit your daughter, which will make her the more dutiful to us, knowing she must depend on our favor, and after our decease, we will bequeath it to her again.

The widow thinking he had counselled her for the best, being of an easy temper, approved this advice, and disinherited her own child, and then asked the old man to be as good as his promise; who said, I will marry you, Madam, if you will assign the estate to me; And I will be careful of your daughter, loving to you, and govern with all justice; and next May Day shall be the time.

The widow reposed such great confidence in him, that she made over all her estate to him: which being done, he neither regarded the young lady nor the widow; who, at the time appointed, required him to marry her: But the equivocating priest answered, That he was ready to marry her, if she had procured herself a husband. Why, said the widow, will not

you be my husband? No reply'd he, I promised but to marry you, not to be your husband.

At this the widow wrung her hands, exclaimed bitterly against her own fatal credulity, and the treachery of the priest, and going out wept grievously, saying, This hand which assigned my estate from my own child to that perfidious villain, shall now end my miserable life; and saying this, she stabbed herself, and fell down dead.

As for her poor daughter, she being turned out of doors by this treacherous priest, destitute of the proper conveniences of life, ran distracted, and perished in the publick field.

Then said the Mistress, Understand you Madam, what I have said? Yes, very well, answered the Empress. The Mistress replied, I hope then your majesty will beware of your old counsellor; who, in like manner labours to cut off your only daughter, and after to ruin you, that he may reign lord and Emperor.

You have shewed me a good example, said the Empress; and it grieves my heart to hear that it proved so fatal to the widow and her daughter. I promise you that my daughter shall not die this day, and I shall rejoice exceedingly to hear her speak to-morrow.

By the assistance of God, replied the Mistress, your majesty shall then hear her speak; and I doubt not but she will decide the controversy betwixt Radamentus and us, to the satisfaction of your majesty, and all the world.

C H A P. VII.

How Sabrina, the Empress's Daughter, complained of Radamentus, and defended herself.

SOON after, all the Seven Wise Mistresses consulted in what manner they should attend the princess to the palace: who being present, said, Take no care what I shall say, for I am provided already. This rejoiced them all: And they clothed her in cloth of gold; and when the time

drew nigh, put her in a stately chariot, drawn by six milk white steeds, themselves riding in coaches, before the chariot, with the Roman banners, and all sorts of musick playing.

The Empress hearing the melody, came out to meet them; and as soon as the princess saw her, she fell upon her knees, and said, Hail! my most dear and most honoured mother!

Overjoyed to hear her speak, the Empress embraced her in her arms, and kissed her; and having conducted her into the palace, the princess began to declare, How Radamentus had attempted to seduce her in the garden, which not being able to effect, he had accused her of committing fornication with a strange man under a fig-tree; concluding, that what had made her more unhappy under that wicked charge, was, that by her knowledge in the stars, foreseeing, that if she spoke any more than one word within the space of seven days, she should die a shameful death, she durst not open her mouth in her own vindication.

The princess then accused Radamentus of committing fornication, with a pretended gentleman of his bed chamber, who being brought, and the princess insisting to have his sex examined, confessed himself a woman.

Radamentus remaining silent and in confusion, the Empress turning to him, full of indignation, said, wicked wretch; was not thy concubine sufficient to satisfy thy depraved appetite, but thou must attempt to debauch my only daughter?

Then Radamentus fell to the ground, and begged pardon; but the Empress said, O ungrateful traitor! thou implorest mercy, but shall find none; for the rigour of the law shall be executed upon thee, to a shameful death, as thou hast deserved. Then turning to the princess, My dear daughter, said she, I am intirely convinced of thy innocence, and that I may be a further witness of thy wisdom and knowledge, I desire to hear an example suitable to the present circumstance and then I will give sentence according to law, upon the traitor Radamentus.

Then silence being commanded, the princess, in obedience to her mother, began as follows:

The Example of Sabrina, the Empress's Daughter.

IN Bulgaria reigned a mighty queen, who had but one daughter, whom she committed to the care of a Wise Mistress, to be educated and instructed in all manner of virtuous learning; where having been a considerable space her mother had a desire to see her, and sent a letter to the Mistress to bring her home.

This being accordingly done, the young lady appeared to her mother, and every one who beheld her, found her so expert in learning, gracious in behaviour, and courteous to all, that the queen exceedingly rejoiced in her.

It happened on a time, as the princess waited at table upon her mother, the queen beheld upon the wall, the shadow of a hand, that wrote three lines in an unknown tongue; which she desiring to know the meaning of, the princess offered to explain the same, if the queen would not be offended. She declaring she would not, the young lady spake as follows:

Most honoured mother, This writing signifies, that I shall become a mighty princess, and shall be honoured of all the people; especially my own mother, who shall bring me a glass of wine, and bow three times and kneel in the delivery of it.

The queen enraged at this interpretation, said, Thou shalt never have such honour and service of me. Then she commanded her servants to carry her into a distant forest, and after they had killed her, to bring her heart for a pledge of her death.

The servants obeyed, but having compassion on so admirable a young lady, when they came to the forest, agreed to kill some wild beast, and carry the heart to the queen; and to put the princess in a hollow tree; and so leave her to the care of divine providence.

This was no sooner performed, than they espied a young wild boar asleep, under a large tree; which one of them ascending stooped down, and having cut his throat; the rest

drew near, and taking out his heart, carried it to the queen, who said insultingly, believing it was her daughter's. Prophecy sometimes proves not true.

The next morning, a knight of Trabezond hunting in that forest, espied the princess in the hollow tree. Her noble appearance, and majestick countenance, immediately confirmed him, that she was of royal extraction; and therefore well pleased with his prize, he took her out, and carried her into his own country; and gave her attendants suitable to her supposed birth, which she thought not fit to declare, lest she should again fall into the hands of her cruel mother.

The young lady, under the tuition of the knight, soon improved so much in beauty, wit and learning, that fame sounded her praise over Trabezond: insomuch, that the Emperor thereof, who was a young prince, came to see her at the knight's house.

No sooner did he set his eyes upon her, but he was enamoured of her, and after dinner, having danced with her, he married her, and brought her home with great pomp and solemnity to his palace, and crowned her Empress.

Three years she lived thus with her husband the Emperor, in all manner of splendor and happiness, at the end of which the Emperor dying, she was crowned sole Empress of Trabezond, as her husband had willed.

Arriving now at the full height of glory, she apply'd herself to the study of astrology her private diversion; and on a time, by the configurations of the stars, observed, that the prince of Moravia had invaded her mother's dominions, to deprive her both of crown and dignity, and banish her out of her own country.

The generous princess laying to heart her mother's afflictions (for pure good nature will never be totally lost) raised a mighty army, and marched towards her mother's country; who was presently informed thereof, to her great joy and surprize, knowing she never had any correspondence with her: wherefore she went to meet her, and coming before the Empress, she fell upon her knees, and said, 'O great Empress! have I merited so signal a favour of your most excellent

majesty, as that you should come in person to preserve me in my dominions.

The Empress then commanding her servants to depart the room, asked the queen, 'What became of the daughter she was informed she once had? -desiring her to tell her freely.'

The queen then, without concealing any thing, told the Empress, as has been related, of the hand writing : of her daughter's interpretation; and of her own cruelty thereupon; excusing herself, that she apprehended the explanation to proceed from presumption and ambition, and that her daughter would dethrone her, and make her her vassal.

Then said the empress, 'You see, madam, that 'tis in vain to strive against the will of heaven: for to keep your majesty no longer in suspense, I am the same daughter whom you so cruelly doom'd to die, being preserved by providence, to support your crown and dignity.'

The queen astonished at this declaration, fell down before the empress, begging her pardon: The empress took her up, and dutifully kneeling, requested her blessing; after which she arose, and said, 'Now you shall find, madam, that my glory and exaltation serves only to restore your honour, and to support your dignity: I will always act as becomes a dutiful daughter, to an affectionate mother.'

The queen transported with joy, blest the time of the birth of such a daughter; and desiring to hear by what means she was preserved, and had arrived to such dignity, the empress told her, how the servants sent to kill her, had preserved her in a hollow tree, carrying her the heart of a boar: how the knight had found her, and carried her to Trabezond; and lastly, how the emperor fell in love with, and married her: as has been at large related.

Soon after, the queen and the empress were met by the tyrannical prince of Moravia, with a great army, a bloody battle ensued, wherein the prince was totally discomfited, and slain in the pursuit; and all the princes and lords of the country paid their profound homage to their rightful sovereign, with the utmost joy and triumph, and soon after,

the empress united Moravia to the dominions of her mother, through which having established a firm and lasting tranquillity, and received the congratulations of all the neighbouring potentates, she returned with great honour and glory into her own territories.

C H A P. VII.

How the Empress resigned her dignity, and caused her daughter Sabrina to be crowned Empress.

THE princess Sabrin having thus ended her example, to the applause of all present, proceeded to apply it to the case in hand, and to assure her mother the Empress of her inviolable duty and obedience; which she did in so admirable a manner, that the Empress no longer able to contain her great joy, affectionately embraced her, and then placed her in a chair of state on her right hand, and made the following speech to the princess, in the hearing of them all:

My dear daughter,

"TIS not without the greatest joy and satisfaction that I have received this pregnant proof of your innocence and wit. And seeing it hath pleased the divine power to bless you with such graces of mind, I now firmly resolve to quit to you my throne, and betake myself to a peaceful retirement from all the troubles of a crown, and the noise and hurry of human life.

I am very well satisfied by the example you have shewn me, of your ability to gover the empire, and to sit in the glorious throne of judgment,

which so many of your noble ancestors have possessed: to you therefore, I commit the care and welfare of my people; which henceforth are no longer mine, but yours.

The Empress then turning to the nobles, made a speech to them in the following terms:

My lords and counsellors,

"I Cannot doubt that you intirely approve my resolution and are as well pleased with it as myself. You are not insensible that my daughter is the only heir of my dominions; and as I cannot live a long time, she will be your Empress but a little while sooner than you might have expected.

I am quite tired with the fatigue of government, and as I have lived a great while, and seen many days of prosperity as well as of adversity, I cannot but think it my concern to lay down my earthly diadem, to fit myself without interruption for a better in heaven. Nor will you, my lords, envy me the satisfaction to see the crown, by an equal and just administration, flourish on the head of my daughter before I go to the grave: and I question not, that you will every one of you contribute all in his power to the advancement of her honour and glory, and the publick good."

Then the lords drew up an address to the Empress as follows:

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Most gracious Empress;

“**W**ITH hearts full of gratitude, we beg leave to return you our most humble thanks for graciously condescending to acquaint us with your imperial majesty's will and pleasure of resigning to your princely daughter, the imperial scepter which you so long and so gloriously have sway'd.

As we have all along had the honour to acquit ourselves as the most obedient and faithful subjects to so gracious a sovereign; so we shall not now scruple to give your imperial majesty the most signal demonstration of our duty by our intire submission to your majesty's choice and resignation, grounded on motives so glorious to your imperial majesty.

We beg leave however, to add; that it would be with extreme reluctance that we should part with your majesty's gentle and gracious administration, were we not assured that your majesty's worthy successor will think it her glory to tread in your steps, and after your illustrious example, make the welfare and happiness of all her people her chief care and study.”

The Empress after this, suspending the execution of Radamentus, for his greater mortification, fixed the day of coronation; which being come the princess Sabrina was crowned Empress with the greatest solemnity and magnificence: and all the nobles and magistrates being assembled to swear homage and allegiance, they were introduced with great pomp and ceremony; and having taken the usual oaths, the new Empress in the presence of them all, thus harangued her mother:

Most honoured Mother,

“**N**OTWITHSTANDING it hath been your most gracious will and pleasure to confer upon me the imperial dignity, before your majesty's decease, which my ambition never aspired to; yet ever dear and honoured madam, the name and authority shall not depart from you while you live.

I will take upon me, madam, to determine all affairs of difficulty and trouble, that I may ease your majesty of the burden of a crown; but you shall have the glory and honour of it; and I shall ever think it my duty to respect and obey your sacred and imperial majesty both as my sovereign and my mother.”

These expressions were received with applause by the nobles, and the acclamations of all the people, among whom nothing was heard but the joyful shouts of, Long live the Empress Sabrina.

CHAP. IX.

How Radamentus and his concubine were sentenced to death, and accordingly executed.

WHEN the solemnity of the coronation was thus over, the new Empress assembled all the judges and counsellors in the judgment hall; where being sat in her imperial robes, together with her mother, upon the throne, Radamentus and his concubine were led into the hall to the bar of justice; and then the young Empress spake as follows:

My lords, our loving counsellors and judges,

“**Y**OU have already heard the indictment of the two infamous prisoners at the bar, and their confession of all that has been laid to their charge; for which reason it might seem needless to say any thing more to convince you of what you ought to do to satisfy offended justice and injured innocence: but lest the great scandal and danger I have been so lately delivered from, should make evil impressions on the minds of any of our good subjects, I hold myself obliged to state the matter to you in it's true light.

The criminal before us, observing that her majesty, my ever honoured mother, reposed a great confidence in his counsels, meditated no less than my death and to dethrone the Empress, to make way for himself to reign, persuaded my mother to send for me home from the care of the Seven Mistresses, not questioning but he should find some pretence to bring about his devilish purpose.

Before I set out, having consulted the stars, I plainly saw, that if I spake two words to any body in the term of seven days, I should surely die a shameful death; being however, obliged to go, the prisoner at the bar attempted to seduce me to the hateful sin of fornication; but all his wicked arts proving ineffectual, and believing I could not speak for myself, he accused me of committing the very crime I had justly resisted, with a stranger in the palace garden.

To omit nothing that might conduce to my destruction, I being reprieved seven times by the mercy of my ever honoured mother, through the persuation of my famous mistresses, he collected seven pernicious examples, which day by day he told her majesty, to induce her to put me to death.

The seven hateful days being happily over, the eighth I spake for myself, and having consulted the malicious and traitorous flanders of this perjured wretch, and cleared my innocence in the face of mankind.

Thus, my lords, is the prisoner at the bar guilty of high treason and false accusation, besides which, it is evident, that he has kept a private concubine in man's apparel, as has been confests'd, who is also at the bar, and was his adviser in all his hellish attempts, to impute to me, an innocent virgin, the heinous crimes, which he daily committed in his private chamber; by which means, I have been seven times led to the place of execution, to be burnt, as the most infamous criminal.

Therefore, most gracious mother, as you are the sole governess of this mighty empire; forasmuch as I will not own the general name in your life; all you the lords and barons of my privy council, and you my grave and learned lords and judges, of you I demand the justice upon that traitor convicted at the bar, and upon his concubine, through whose horrid treasons I and the whole empire, have been in such manifest peril.

Then Radamentus stood up, and pleaded his former service, viz. That he had concluded a

peace with the king of Gaul, twice with the king of Naples, and once with the emperor of Greece; In which services, having always, as he said, proved a faithful minister, he implored the mercy of the Empress and the court; or that he might be only banished, or imprisoned during life. But the young Empress rejecting all his prayers and insisting that the traitor might be made an example to posterity, the judges after consultation, said to Radamentus:

‘As to the services by you pleaded, granting them to be faithfully performed you have not done more than you were obliged to by your duty as a subject, and by the great trust our most gracious sovereign reposed in you: besides, it was very requisite that you should recommend yourself by some faithful services to her majesty’s esteem, to be the better able to bring about your hellish conspiracies and treasons: the court therefore can ascribe no merit to you for any of your past actions: at least none sufficient to withhold the hand of justice, and to balance the most horrid crimes you stand convicted of: they therefore unanimously find themselves obliged to pronounce upon you and your concubine, who has been accessory to all your treasons, the following sentence.’

That you shall both be taken away from this place, to the place from whence you came, and from thence, be drawn at two horses tails through the city to the place of execution, and there under the common gallows, be consumed to ashes.

The sentence being pronounced, the court broke up, and the criminals were carried to the prison from whence they were brought, and seven days after, were both tied to horses tails, and so dragged through the streets; where multitudes of people flocked to see them; every one rejoicing and crying out, Behold the traitors! Behold the horrid traitors!

In this manner they were brought to the common gallows, where a stake was provided, to which they were bound back to back; and the fire being ready to be kindled, Radamentus addressing himself to the people, began his confession as follows:

Good people,

BEHOLD in the person of the wretched Radamentus, an instance of the vicissitudes of fortune! It was but the other day you beheld me seated in glory and grandeur, the second person in the empire, and now you perceive me reduced to the state of the most miserable person in the nation, despised and hated by all, pitied by none, and led to the most shameful and ignominious death: which, however, I must confess, is but just upon me; for in the time I governed this nation, I have sentenced to death great numbers of innocent persons to enjoy their estates, who were executed upon this very spot. I moreover sentenced to death my uncle; signed the warrant for my younger brother's execution; by which cruelties I broke my mother's heart: and lastly, I have pleaded seven days incessantly, with a traiterous intention, for the destruction of the imperial princess;

for which and all my other evil actions, the divine vengeance has at last overtaken me, as you see.

As soon as he had said this, the fire was kindled! and the flame began to rise, the people heard a great and lamentable voice, crying, *Radamentus is coming! make room; the great Radamentus is coming!* And no sooner were these words spoken, but his body vanished from the stake, and his concubine consumed in the flame.

Thus hated and unpitied of all men, perished the traitor Radamentus, as a just example to all vile counsellors and false accusers.

C H A P. X.

The death of the old Empress. Her burial and epitaph. The Gauls invade the empire, and are overthrown.

THE new Empress having out-lived her mortal enemy, began a most happy and glorious reign; and by her affectionate duty to her mother, her impartial administration of justice, her facetious temper, and her great wisdom and penetration, she attracted the admiration and love of every one.

Her mother lived to observe, with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction, her daughter admired and feared over all the neighbouring nations, for her wit and beauty; and that every day usher'd in for her something more glorious than the preceding; and then in the midst of a flourishing

peace, she died, leaving her beloved Sabrina sole Empress of the Roman Empire : who having provided every thing to solemnize the funeral with the utmost magnificence, interred her mother in a noble monument purposely erected ; on which was engraven the following

E P I T A P H.

*WITHIN this monument interred lies,
The glorious Mother of Sabrina, wise ;
Whose power and impartial justice, made
The good rejoice, and wicked men afraid :
She liv'd to triumph o'er her enemies,
And all the wicked art, and fallacies,
That Radamentus us'd to betray,
And take Sabrina's precious life away.
For time and fortune favour'd her at last,
Whose life was sav'd and Radamentus cast.*

The young Empress having thus pompously interred her mother, applied her whole study for the welfare and prosperity of all her people with so much diligence and success, that kings and princes came from remote parts, to pay their respects to such an excellent lady, and be witnesses of her wit and grandeur. She encouraged all manner of arts and useful learning : and particularly, the naturalists ; of whom she learnt the nature of birds, beasts, herbs, and all kinds of creatures, both animal and vegetable.

About this time, the Gauls, a barbarous and faithless nation, inur'd to blood and unjust invasions, made incursions into the rich dominions of the Empress; not to revenge any injury or affront, but merely out of an unjust principle to plunder and rob.

To repel these barbarians, the Empress assembled a great army upon the frontiers;—a bloody battle ensued;—which continued three hours with doubtful success. At last, her General Gorgen, being arrived in the army of the Empress, soon decided the controversy in favour of the valiant Romans; fighting so courageously, that he made lines throughout the army of the Gauls, and at that time totally routed them.

The Gauls being thus put to flight, and driven into their own country, the empire enjoyed a glorious and undisturbed tranquility: and the fame of the Empress rang throughout the world.

C H A P. XI.

How the king of Germany came to court the Empress Sabrina: and how he obtained her in marriage.

IN the beginning of April, when the earth was clothed in her summer livery, and every creature rejoiced in the pleasures of a flourishing spring. Alexander, king of Germany, prepared a splendid equipage, and made a journey to the imperial city of Rome, to be an eye witness of the singular protections of the Empress; and, if possible, to obtain her in marriage.

Arriving on the Roman frontiers, the Empress honouring the character of so great a king, went to meet him in a chariot drawn by six milk-white steeds, with trappings of gold, attended by the chief lords and ladies of the court: and after mutual civilities, conducted him to her palace; where no magnificence nor delight was wanting to divert his majesty.

The king was soon charmed with the wit and beauty of the Empress; yet dreading a repulse, he was afraid to reveal his passion: but on a time, assuming courage, he made a letter the messenger of his mind, in the following words:

Incomparable Princess!

IT is betwixt hope and fear that I address myself to your imperial majesty, in earnest supplication that you will grant my request. I acknowledge my heart captivated by your beauty, and my soul ravished by your wit; so that if your majesty consent not to be my wife, and the glorious queen of Germany, my life will soon become a victim to your disdain. Your answer, dear madam, will soon determine the fate of

Your majesty's obedient servant.

The Empress considering the king's great merit and power, soon complied with his request, to his inexpressible joy.

The happy day fixed for the celebration of their nuptials being come, all the neighbouring princes sent to congratulate the royal couple; the wedding dinner was kept with the utmost magnificence, the sons of kings and princesses waiting at table; which was stored with the best varieties the world could afford; a concert of melodious music raising their minds, adding to the general joy.

After the ceremony of the marriage was over, some commotions happening in Germany, fomented underhand by the king of Macedonia, king Alexander was obliged to go thither to make a timely provision against them; but unable to bear this separation from his beloved Empress, he constantly every morning used to ascend the highest mountain near him, and fixing his eyes towards Rome, sing to his lute, the following lines, in praise of their mutual love:

*OH! dear Sabrina! by heaven's protection,
We lov'd, we lik'd, and firmly link'd affection,
And with the solemn power of an oath,
In presence of the immortal gods, we both,
Exchang'd our hearts, from which nought can diminish,
No fortune can dissolve, no death can finish.
Oh! when shall we embrace on Cupid's bed?
With roses, violets, and myrtles spread,*

*Beneath the cool shade of cypress grove,
Tasting the chaste delights of lawful love!
When ev'ry blifs enjoy that may delight
Nature, or unrestrained appetite.*

In this manner did king Alexander employ his leisure moments, during his absence from his lovely Sabrina : but fortune, constant in nothing, but inconstancy, soon changed sides, and convinced this royal pair, who seemed to think themselves happy in their mutual love, that there is no solid durable felicity in this world ; as shall be manifested in the ensuing chapter.

C H A P. XII.

*How the king of Macedonia proclaim'd war against,
and overcame king Alexander.*

NO sooner had king Alexander accommodated his German affairs, and arrived in the palace of his beloved Sabrina at Rome, but came an herald at arms from the king of Macedonia, to challenge him into the field. King Alexander acquainted the Empress with it, so she thereupon drew a scheme, and perceived by the configuration of the planets, that the battle would prove fatal; and that they should be overthrown; and though she would not tell the king so, yet she advised him

(if possible) to make peace with the king of Macedonia, but all in vain, for no terms but becoming his vassal would be admitted: whereupon king Alexander said, that he would meet him in the plains of Thessaly; and so taking a solemn farewell of his sorrowful Empress, and his two sons, he soon arrived; and finding his enemies assembled for battle, he made an oration to encourage his soldiers, importing, That the ambition of the king of Macedonia being the only motive to this war, they must consider they fought for liberty and property: that if they lost the day, their young men would be put to the sword, their wives and daughters ravished before their faces, their cities, towns and villages plundered and laid in ashes; and lastly, a perpetual brand of infamy and slavery fixed upon their nation and posterity. On the other hand, animating them from motives of honour and glory; That the wealth of Macedonia would become their plunder; and from his own affection, favour and bounty, which he promised them who signalized themselves that day.

The soldiers unanimously answered by a mighty shout, and with great courage and bravery, They would stand by their prince to the last drop of blood. So marched towards the enemy, the king himself leading the van. The battle soon began, and was continued till night with great obstinacy, losing twelve thousand men on each side; and both armies renewed the fight next morning with the utmost vigour, but the event proved fatal to king Alexander, for in two hours he was totally de-

feated, his general and his bravest men killed, and forced to disguise himself for fear of being taken.

The king having with much difficulty made his escape to the frontiers of Rome, found there his empress overwhelmed with grief at the dismal news of his ill success, and taking her in his arms, said, In the midst of my misfortunes I have one consolation which infinitely overbalances all my woes, and that is, I again behold my dear Sabrina, be comforted, incomparable lady, continued he, none are exempted from the frowns of fortune, and we must look upon the afflictions of this life as the incentives to prepare us for a better in the world to come, where no ambitious enemy can invade or annoy our felicity.

The virtuous empress, somewhat revived at these words, assumed her wonted courage, and assured the king, that she was ready to accompany him in the most abject condition, esteeming his conversation above the pomp of sovereignty, and the troublesome honour of a crown.

Meanwhile the numerous armies of Macedonia following their victory, soon over-ran all Germany and Italy, and being on their march to besiege the city of Rome, the royal pair, and their two sons, with all things necessary for their honourable subsistence, retired into a remote island, attended by three tributary kings, and the Seven famous Mis-

wives, who having shared in their prosperity, would not leave them in adversity; and there passed the remainder of their days in a quiet and peaceable retirement from all the cares of human life; and on their tomb was erected the following

E P I T A P H.

*WITHIN this house of stone entombed lies,
The king of Germany, furnam'd the wise;
With the great Roman Empress, his dear wife,
The chiefest earthly blessing of his life,
Whom Macedonia's king in wrongful fight,
Deprived of their countries, crowns and right,
But now they do enjoy a heavenly crown,
That cannot fade, where tyrants ne'er shall
come.*

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